



THE STAR MEN

by Andrew Smith

THE DOCTOR: PETER DAVISON

Space-time traveller.

ADRIC: MATTHEW WATERHOUSE

Doctor's companion.

NYSSA: SARAH SUTTON

Doctor's companion.

TEGAN: JANET FIELDING

Doctor's companion.

KALA TACE (rhymes with 'Mahler face'):

(F, 40s) Controller of Gallius Ultima.

AUTUMN TACE:

(F, early 20s) Astronomy prodigy – Kala Tace's daughter.

ROVUS ('ROE-vus'):

(M) Leader of the Star Men.

GENERAL DARIN FELL / LOM / CUSTODIAN:

(M, 40s) Commander of the *Carl Sagan*. / Reptilian survivor in the Star Men's reality. / Soldier.

NOMAR ('NO-mar') / VEDRIN: / SURGICAL ROBOT:

(M, 30s) A Vileri ('vi-LAIR-ee', not 'vie-LAIR-ee'), former slave of the Star Men. / A Star Man, deputy to Rovus. / Robot.

ALSO: CUSTODIANS [soldiers]; OPERATORS; CADAVERS.

DIRECTOR: BARNABY EDWARDS

SCRIPT EDITOR: ALAN BARNES

PRODUCER: DAVID RICHARDSON

EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS: NICHOLAS BRIGGS & JASON HAIGH-ELLERY

PART ONE

MUSIC: OPENING THEME.

1. INT. KALA'S QUARTERS.

SILENCE DISTURBED BY A SHRILL COMMUNICATOR ALERT. CONTROLLER KALA TACE STIRS IN BED.

KALA:

(FORCING HERSELF AWAKE) What sort of time is this...?

SHE TAPS THE COMMUNICATOR.

FELL:

(DISTORT) Controller, it's Darin Fell.

KALA:

General?

FELL:

Sorry to disturb you, but I have wonderful news. They're coming back!

KALA:

Who's coming - [back]? (SUDDENLY WIDE AWAKE) The *Johannes (yo-HANNUS) Kepler*??

FELL:

It just showed up on the long-range detectors!

KALA CLIMBS QUICKLY FROM HER BED.

KALA:

I'll see you in the Control Suite directly.

FELL:

(D) See you shortly.

THE CHANNEL CLOSES.

KALA:

My Gods. They're alive!

2. INT. TARDIS CONTROL ROOM.

TARDIS IN FLIGHT.

ADRIC:

Directional Unit... (PUSHES BUTTON) ... on. Atomic accelerator...
(PULLS LEVER) ... engaged.

DOCTOR:

Well done, Adric. You're now flying the TARDIS.

ADRIC:

Right...

NYSSA:

Go on, Adric. It's all perfectly logical.

TEGAN:

(SARCASTIC) Yeah, right. Good luck.

DOCTOR:

Relax, Adric. Remember what I've taught you.

ADRIC:

We're approaching a planetary cluster. (TURNS A DIAL) Adjusting
the helmic regulator three degrees.

DOCTOR:

Compensating for local gravity. Excellent.

ADRIC PRESSES BUTTONS.

ADRIC:

Inputting navigation sequence.

DOCTOR:

We're still within a star system. You should wait until we're
in open space before – [you do that]

ADRIC:

It's alright, I checked. Navigation sequence... (PUSHES BUTTON) ...
activated.

ENGINES SURGE. ROOM PITCHES VIOLENTLY.

DOCTOR, NYSSA AND TEGAN:

(THROWN) Aaagh!!

TEGAN:

What did you do?

ADRIC:

(PANICKY) I can't stop it!!

NYSSA:

Look at the scanner! We're heading for a supernova!

DOCTOR:

Adjust course, Adric! Now!!

ADRIC HITS CONTROLS.

ADRIC:

The controls won't respond!! Maybe if I - !

TEGAN:

Too late! We're going to hit!!

A CATAclysmic IMPACT. THE ENGINES CUT OUT. A FEW MOMENTS' SILENCE. THEN -

DOCTOR:

Well done, Adric. You killed us.

TEGAN:

Again.

ADRIC:

Sorry...

NYSSA:

(TRYING TO BE POSITIVE) We lasted longer than last time.

ADRIC:

You made the simulation too hard.

DOCTOR:

I recreated a typical area of space.

ADRIC:

You're never going to let me fly it for real, are you?

DOCTOR:

Don't be downhearted. Flying a TARDIS is complicated. You don't just press a button and hope, you know.

TEGAN:

Could have fooled me.

DOCTOR:

Space/Time travel is logarithms, geometry, trigonometry. All the mathematical disciplines at once.

TEGAN:

It sounds impossible.

NYSSA:

I'm sure it's not, for someone with a badge for mathematical excellence.

ADRIC:

Then why can't I get it right?

DOCTOR:

A little more homework is all that's required. Perhaps a visit to somewhere with experts in astronomical navigation? As it happens, I know just the place. Not far from here.

TEGAN:

Where is 'here', anyway?

DOCTOR:

Interspace.

TEGAN:

You what?

DOCTOR:

The space between galaxies. Perfect for TARDIS flying lessons. Between the Milky Way – your galaxy, Tegan – and two of your nearest neighbours. Let me just reset the scanner... (OPERATES CONTROL)

SCANNER RESETS WITH A FLOURISH.

NYSSA:

It's beautiful!

TEGAN:

That's a galaxy? A whole galaxy?

DOCTOR:

That, Tegan, is the Large Magellanic Cloud. [NB: PRONOUNCED 'majuh-LANNIC'.] Known as the L.M.C.

3. INT. CONTROL SUITE.

HIVE OF ACTIVITY. OPERATIVES AT WORKSTATIONS. KALA STRIDES IN.

KALA:

We won't be needing your rescue mission after all, General.

FELL:

I still say we should have sent a military force in the first place.

KALA:

We'll judge that once we know what happened out there. Where's the *Kepler* now?

FELL:

Six kiloparsecs out, on a reciprocal course from the L.M.C.

KALA:

Do we have contact?

FELL:

Not yet.

KALA:

But at six K.P.C., they're well within range.

FELL:

We're getting no response to our calls.

KALA:

How long until they arrive?

FX: FELL TAPS A FEW BUTTONS ON THE COMPUTER SCREEN. BEEP BEEP.

FELL:

Doesn't look like they're using their Leap Drive. At current rate, I'd say about three hours.

KALA:

I want the base on full readiness. Lock it down. No visitors, no students. Not until we've received the *Kepler*.

FELL:

Right away.

KALA:

In fact, nothing until we find out what the devil happened to that ship. — Just what did they find in the L.M.C....?

4. INT. TARDIS CONTROL ROOM.

NYSSA:

It's so colourful.

DOCTOR:

Those areas of pink are where new stars are being formed, burning hydrogen.

ADRIC:

It's like a star factory.

TEGAN:

I've not heard of the L.M.C. before.

DOCTOR:

Living in Australia, you might have seen it. And the Small Magellanic Cloud – that's out there too, another thirty thousand light years into space.

TEGAN:

They can be seen from Earth?

DOCTOR:

From the southern hemisphere.

ADRIC:

Are we going there?

DOCTOR:

No, we're heading to Gallius Ultima.

DOCTOR TAPS CONTROLS.

NYSSA:

What's Gallius Ultima?

DOCTOR:

A planet on the edge of the Milky Way. Known to those who live and work there as 'Gallius U'. It's a research station, housing one of the most impressive astronomical observatories ever built.

5. INT. CONTROL SUITE.

FELL PRESSES A COMMUNICATOR SWITCH.

FELL:

(INTO MIC) This is Gallius U calling the *Johannes Kepler*. Please respond.

COMMUNICATIONS STATIC.

KALA:

Still nothing.

FELL:

It might be they can receive, but not transmit.

KALA:

How far out are they now?

FELL:

(CHECKS) Two kiloparsecs.

KALA:

Can we get visual?

FELL:

Not at that distance. The probe satellites aren't up to it.

KALA:

If they're not, I know what might be...

6. INT. ARRIVALS HUB.

SPACIOUS, HIGH-CEILINGED AREA. TARDIS MATERIALISES. DOCTOR, ADRIC, NYSSA AND TEGAN STEP OUT.

TEGAN:

This isn't getting me to Heathrow.

DOCTOR:

Oh Tegan. I'm broadening your mind. We're in the fifty-third century, when humanity is still contained within its own galaxy. In a century or so they'll discover intergalactic drives and make the next great leap. Gallius Ultima is where they'll make that leap from.

HE SHUTS DOOR.

ADRIC:

All those corridors. It could be the Starliner.

NYSSA:

Where have we landed, exactly?

DOCTOR:

We're at the heart of the research base. Visitors arrive here, then take one of these passages to reach the different zones. Or Hubs, as they call them.

ADRIC:

How are you meant to know which one leads where?

DOCTOR:

In this time, the custom is to use ideograms rather than written signs. (POINTING) That symbol there - the one with the arrow pointing backwards - that represents History. A little enigmatic, perhaps.

NYSSA:

And that one? A circle in... (COUNTS) ... twelve segments.

DOCTOR:

Astrology.

TEGAN:

So they're into that type of stargazing?

DOCTOR:

This is 'the Planet at the Edge of the Galaxy'. It draws all sorts - the scientific, the spiritual, the adventurous and the curious.

NYSSA:

The scientific alongside the spiritual... and they work together?

DOCTOR:

Both looking for answers, in their own way. But not always to the same question.

7. INT. CONTROL SUITE.

AUTUMN TACE ENTERS.

AUTUMN:

(ENTERING) Mother. You called me.

KALA:

Autumn. We need to get sight of the *Kepler*, but the probe satellites haven't got the range.

AUTUMN:

I could go to Astronomy, and redirect the orbital telescope? That should get an image.

KALA:

Exactly what I was hoping.

AUTUMN:

(LEAVING) I'll be as quick as I can.

AUTUMN HURRIES OUT.

8. INT. ARRIVALS HUB.

ADRIC:

Where are all the visitors?

DOCTOR:

In the Hubs, I imagine.

TEGAN:

So. This way leads to the Astrology Zone. Sorry, Hub. This way to History... and the others?

DOCTOR:

Let me see... (TRANSLATING SYMBOLS) "Humanities"... "Exploration"... "Viewing Deck"...

TEGAN:

Viewing deck? With a view of what?

DOCTOR:

The base. The Hubs and the land around them.

ADRIC:

We came here for astronomy, didn't we?

NYSSA:

I think I've found the ideogram for that. A star. Not as indecipherable as most.

DOCTOR:

Well spotted, Nyssa.

ADRIC:

Let's go there, then.

TEGAN:

Can't we go to the Viewing Deck first?

ADRIC WALKS OFF DOWN A PASSAGE.

ADRIC:

You do what you like. I'm going to Astronomy.

DOCTOR:

Adric!

NYSSA:

It's alright, I'll go with him.

TEGAN WALKS OFF DOWN ANOTHER PASSAGE.

TEGAN:

Well, I'm off to this Viewing Deck. See you in a bit.

DOCTOR:

Tegan...!

NYSSA:

Go with her, Doctor. Join us later. (WALKS OFF)

DOCTOR:

(EXASPERATED) One day they'll all do as I say... (ENTERS PASSAGE)

9. INT. MONORAIL DECK.

A SMALL, CONTAINED MONORAIL TERMINUS. ADRIC AND NYSSA ENTER.

ADRIC:

What's this?

NYSSA:

A transportation capsule, I think. It'd seem to run on that single rail, see?

ADRIC:

We must have to use this to get to Astronomy.

HE OPENS A TOP CANOPY ON A FOUR-PERSON POD AND CLIMBS IN.

ADRIC:

(CLIMBING IN) Come on, get in.

NYSSA CLIMBS IN AS AUTUMN APPROACHES QUICKLY, FROM OFF.

AUTUMN:

(ENTERING) Who on Gallius are you two?!

NYSSA:

Oh, I'm sorry. We were just...

AUTUMN:

(COMING OVER) Didn't you hear the siren? You should have left an hour ago! We're in lockdown.

ADRIC:

We definitely didn't hear a siren.

AUTUMN:

I don't have time to escort you out. (CLIMBS IN) Stay with me for now. When I've done what I need to do, I'll take you back to your habitation zone.

NYSSA:

Our habitation zone... yes.

AUTUMN CLOSES THE CANOPY. CROSS TO:

10. MONOPOD CAPSULE [CONTINUOUS]

FX: AUTUMN IS OPERATING VARIOUS ON-SCREEN BUTTONS. BEEP BEEP.

AUTUMN:

You're lucky I found you and not the Custodians.

THE POD POWERS UP.

AUTUMN:

Astronomy is on the outskirts. I need to get there fast, so I'll be using zero inertia. You might want to hang on.

NYSSA:

Of course. — You said there was a 'lockdown'? Is there an emergency of some sort?

AUTUMN:

Next you'll be saying you don't know about the return.

ADRIC:

Return? Return of — [what]?

FX: AUTUMN PUSHES THE 'START' BUTTON IN THE MIDST OF ADRIC'S SPEECH ABOVE. THE POD SHOOTS OFF AT HIGH SPEED.

ADRIC:

(CAUGHT OFF GUARD) Waaaahh!!!

11. INT. ELEVATOR.

IN MOTION.

TEGAN:

Feels like this elevator has been going up for ages. I wonder if it's ever going to...

ELEVATOR HALTS.

... stop.

ELEVATOR PINGS TO SIGNAL IT'S REACHED THE CORRECT FLOOR.

DOCTOR:

The viewing deck is at the top of the base. It's sure to be crowded. But we should still be able to get a good - [view]

DOORS OPEN. SILENCE BEYOND.

DOCTOR:

Oh.

TEGAN:

Crowded, did you say?

THEY EXIT INTO:

12. INT. VIEWING DECK. [CONTINUOUS]

LARGE GLASS-DOMED AREA. ELEVATOR DOORS CLOSE BEHIND.

TEGAN:

(CALLING) Excuse me, folks, but can we get to the front?

DOCTOR:

Very droll.

TEGAN:

Must be the off-season. (AS THEY APPROACH THE GLASS) Great view, though!

DOCTOR:

Each of those domes is a Hub. The atmosphere here is thin and quite toxic, so they're connected by a network of underground tunnels.

TEGAN:

Which dome are Adric and Nyssa going to?

DOCTOR:

That one, I think. On the very edge.

TEGAN:

That's the biggest of the lot.

13. INT. CONTROL SUITE.

ALERT BEEPS SUBTLY.

KALA:

What's that?

FELL:

An entry alarm. Unauthorised personnel on the viewing deck. Honestly, you'd think we sounded that siren for fun. (HEADS FOR EXIT) I'll take a couple of Custodians and check it out.

14. INT. VIEWING DECK.

TEGAN WANDERS ACROSS THE FLOOR.

TEGAN:

Hey, look out there! What a spaceship!

THE DOCTOR JOINS HER.

DOCTOR:

Impressive indeed. It's taking up the entire spaceport.

TEGAN:

It's huge!

DOCTOR:

It's an advanced design. It even has... (STOPS HIMSELF) Oh dear.

TEGAN:

What?

DOCTOR:

I think I may have miscalculated...

TEGAN:

You mean it's closer than it looks and actually really tiny.

DOCTOR:

No... (LOOKING AROUND) What I need is... Ah, yes. An information terminal.

HE HURRIES TO THE TERMINAL.

TEGAN:

What's wrong?

DOCTOR:

That ship is fitted with a very special propulsion system. The engine ducts give it away. It's a Leap Drive.

TEGAN:

What's a 'Leap Drive'?

DOCTOR:

One that can move a ship across vast distances in an instant. It's the first truly intergalactic drive system. It's what allows humanity to leave the Milky Way. Now... here we are.

HE TAPS A KEY.

AUTUMN:

(DISTORT, PRESENTING) Ladies and gentlemen, humans and visiting others. – Welcome to Gallius Ultima. The launch platform for the greatest feat in the history of space exploration. Travel beyond our galaxy.

A MUSICAL FLOURISH.

TEGAN:

I thought you said we were a long time before that?

DOCTOR:

(EMBARRASSED) As I said, a miscalculation. Only by a hundred years or so.

IN B/G, COMPUTER SHOWS THE LAUNCH OF THE *KEPLER*.

AUTUMN:

(D) One month ago, the Explorer-class ship *Johannes Kepler* left Gallius U, en route to the Large Magellanic Cloud. Its crew charged with an historic mission.

FURTHER MUSICAL FLOURISH.

DOCTOR:

That confirms it. This is a crucial time for humanity's development. I try to avoid these.

ELEVATOR OPENS BEHIND...

DOCTOR:

We should go.

FELL EXITS ELEVATOR, WITH TWO CUSTODIANS.

FELL:

You'll go alright. With us. – Custodians: cover them!

CUSTODIANS RAISE THEIR GUNS.

TEGAN:

Oh well done, Doctor.

15. INT. MONORAIL TERMINUS.

MONORAIL POD GLIDES IN AND HALTS. CANOPY OPENS. AUTUMN, ADRIC AND NYSSA GET OUT.

NYSSA:

That was fast.

ADRIC:

(SHAKEN) It was... wasn't it?

AUTUMN:

This way.

SHE HURRIES UP A RAMP. ADRIC AND NYSSA FOLLOW, INTO:

16. INT. ASTRONOMY HUB. [CONTINUOUS]

LARGE ROOM. INSTRUMENTS TICKING OVER. AUTUMN, ADRIC AND NYSSA ENTER.

AUTUMN:

Well, here it is. The Astronomy Hub.

NYSSA:

It's very quiet.

ADRIC:

Where is everyone?

AUTUMN:

(APPROACHING AN INSTRUMENT PANEL) It's almost completely automated. — One moment, please.

SHE PRESSES A SWITCH. COMMS CHANNEL OPENS.

AUTUMN:

(INTO MIC) Astronomy to Control.

KALA:

(DISTORT) Go ahead, Autumn.

AUTUMN:

I've arrived, mother. Can you feed the *Kepler's* telemetry through to me?

KALA:

(D) It's being done.

DATA BEEPS ACROSS A SCREEN.

AUTUMN:

I've got it. Realigning now. Keep watching your screens. Astronomy out.

COMMS CHANNEL CLOSED. AUTUMN OPERATES FURTHER CONTROLS.

ADRIC:

What are you doing? What's the *Kepler*?

AUTUMN:

Where have you been? The *Johannes Kepler*.

NYSSA:

We're new to... here.

AUTUMN:

You must be new to life. The *Kepler* left for the Large Magellanic Cloud a month ago.

ADRIC:

A month ago? (TO NYSSA, SOTTO) But the Doctor said..

NYSSA:

(SOTTO) He must have miscalculated.

AUTUMN:

We lost contact. We were prepping the *Carl Sagan* for a rescue mission. But a few hours ago – sorry, could you step away from those canisters?

ADRIC:

(STEPPING AWAY) Sorry. What's in them?

AUTUMN:

Liquid nitrogen. For the probe launches. – So yes, a few hours ago the *Kepler* turned up on the detectors.

NYSSA:

That's good, isn't it?

AUTUMN:

Of course. But we've not been able to make contact with them. So I'm realigning our orbital telescope to get a look at the ship. And... (MORE BUTTONS) I'm nearly there.

17. INT. CONTROL SUITE.

DOOR OPENS. THE DOCTOR AND TEGAN ARE PUSHED IN.

TEGAN:

(ENTERING) Hey! Quit shoving!

DOCTOR:

(ENTERING) Calm, Tegan.

KALA:

Who are these two?

FELL:

Found them on the Viewing Deck.

KALA:

I don't have time to deal with unauthorised tourists! Put them in the detention hub.

TEGAN:

Now hang on a minute...

STATIC FROM MAIN SCREEN AS IMAGE RESOLVES.

OPERATOR:

Controller! We're getting an image on the main screen.

KALA:

The *Kepler*. At last.

STATIC FADES.

OPERATORS:

(GASPS AROUND THE ROOM)

FELL:

Good Gods.

KALA:

What's happened to them?

FELL MOVES TO A COMPUTER SCREEN & BEGINS TAPPING. BEEP BEEP.

TEGAN:

(SOTTO) That looks like the ship we saw on the information terminal.

DOCTOR:

(SOTTO) Or parts of it. It's badly damaged.

THE COMPUTER SCREEN DISPLAYS THE READOUT ASSESSMENT ON THE KEPLER.

FELL:

They've lost the cargo section, and at least two explorer modules. There's damage all along the starboard side.

KALA:

What could have done this?

FELL:

There are strong stellar winds in the L.M.C.

DOCTOR:

Stellar winds didn't do that.

FELL:

Custodians – take these "tourists" away.

DOCTOR:

Please! That damage was deliberate!

KALA:

Wait.

SHE APPROACHES THE DOCTOR.

KALA:

What do you know about what's happened to our ship?

DOCTOR:

I've seen the effect of stellar winds. That isn't it. Your ship has come under attack.

KALA:

From whom?

DOCTOR:

Well now. That's the question.

18. INT. ASTRONOMY HUB.

AUTUMN TAPS CONTROLS.

AUTUMN:

Beginning a thermographic and spectrographic sweep of the Kepler...

SCAN BEGINS.

AUTUMN:

I'm Autumn, by the way. Autumn Tace. Who are you?

ADRIC:

Adric.

NYSSA:

Nyssa. Are you in charge here? You're very young.

AUTUMN:

I'm the director of Astronomy. My mother is the base Controller.

ADRIC:

That lady we heard.

AUTUMN:

I worked for my position. As it happens, I'm a prodigy!

SUBTLE ALARM ON AN INSTRUMENT PANEL.

AUTUMN:

The scan's finished.

SHE PRESSES BUTTONS.

AUTUMN:

That's odd. That's very... Oh.

NYSSA:

What?

19. INT. CONTROL SUITE.

THE DOCTOR IS OPERATING A COMPUTER SCREEN, ENLARGING VARIOUS SECTIONS ON A SCHEMATIC OF THE *KEPLER*.

DOCTOR:

Look. There's explosive damage at key points, including the Leap Drive - see here? (A BEEP) - exactly where the tharian power cells are fitted.

KALA:

How do you know about the Leap Drive? That's classified.

DOCTOR:

I know everything there is to know about Leap Drives. More to the point, so did whoever attacked the *Johannes Kepler* - this damage was targeted. Not stellar winds.

FELL:

But if it's deliberate, that means there's a hostile force within the L.M.C.

DOCTOR:

Very probably.

COMMUNICATIONS CHANNEL PINGS OPEN.

AUTUMN:

(DISTORT) Astronomy to Control.

KALA:

Autumn. What is it?

AUTUMN:

(D) Mother, I just completed a scan of the ship. It shows a spike in the engine core.

KALA:

What?

A SUDDEN BEEP BEEP FROM THE DOCTOR'S TERMINAL.

DOCTOR:

She's right. They've just fired up their ion drive.

AUTUMN:

(D) I don't see how. The thermograph also shows no life signs anywhere on the *Kepler*. I've swept the ship from bow to stern. There's nobody aboard.

TEGAN:

But someone must be flying it.

DOCTOR:

Unless it's been pre-programmed.

INSTRUMENT ALARM. THE TERMINAL BRINGS UP THE FLIGHT PATH.

FELL:

Telemetry shows the *Kepler* is accelerating. Speed at one-eighth luminal and climbing. Her engines are at critical tolerance.

DOCTOR:

Looks like the *Kepler* is on a return course to this planet. Presumably to its point of origin – this base.

KALA:

What's your point?

OPERATOR (A LITTLE DISTANCE AWAY):

Speed one-quarter luminal and climbing.

DOCTOR:

Their speed is increasing exponentially. They don't intend to slow down.

TEGAN:

But if they don't slow down... they'll crash.

KALA:

General – confirm the *Kepler's* destination!

FELL FRANTICALLY TAPS AWAY AT THE COMPUTER.

FELL:

Predicted landing point is... this base.

KALA:

Stranger. Who are you?

DOCTOR:

Introductions later. What matters is that whoever attacked your ship is now using it as a weapon against you!

20. INT. ASTRONOMY HUB.

AUTUMN TAPS KEYS. DATA READ-OUT.

AUTUMN:

Yes. On its current trajectory, the *Kepler* will land on top of us. Travelling at almost the speed of light.

NYSSA:

You should evacuate!

AUTUMN:

There's no time.

ADRIC:

'On its current trajectory'...

AUTUMN:

What?

ADRIC:

There might be a way to stop this. (BEAT) Just how big is this space telescope of yours?

21. INT. CONTROL SUITE.

TEGAN:

Can't you shoot it down?

FELL:

We've no weaponry big enough.

DOCTOR:

We have to find some way to stop it.

INSTRUMENT ALARM SOUNDS.

KALA:

What's that?

FELL:

The telescope is moving out of orbit.

KALA HITS A SWITCH.

KALA:

(INTO MIC) Autumn. What's happening with the telescope?

AUTUMN:

(D) It's alright, mother...

CROSS TO:

22. INT. ASTRONOMY SECTION. [CONTINUOUS]

AUTUMN WORKING CONTROLS.

AUTUMN:

My friend here had an idea.

KALA:

(D) What friend?

ADRIC:

Hello! Yes, I just had the thought that if we used the telescope...

KALA:

(D) Who is this?

ADRIC:

I'm Adric.

CROSS TO:

23. INT. CONTROL SUITE. [CONTINUOUS]

DOCTOR:

Of course. The telescope! Bright lad.

KALA:

Another of your friends?

DOCTOR:

(INTO MIC) Adric, it's the Doctor. Is Nyssa with you?

NYSSA:

(D) Here, Doctor!

KALA:

How many of you are there?

DOCTOR:

(IGNORING HER) Adric, I take it you're moving the telescope into the *Kepler's* path?

ADRIC:

(D) Autumn is.

DOCTOR:

Good thinking!

TEGAN:

How does that help?

DOCTOR:

The Gallius Deep Space Telescope is the size of a house, Tegan.

FELL:

It's still only one-fiftieth the size of the *Kepler*. Not nearly big enough to stop it.

DOCTOR:

It doesn't have to stop it. Just deflect it from its flight path.

TEGAN:

Could it do that?

DOCTOR:

Even a glancing blow might be enough.

NYSSA:

(D) Doctor – there's a problem!

CROSS TO:

24. INT. ASTRONOMY HUB. [CONTINUOUS]

INSTRUMENT ALARMS.

AUTUMN:

Oh, no...!

DOCTOR:

(D) What's wrong?

AUTUMN:

(CALLING) The fail-safes are cutting in!

ADRIC:

The computer is predicting the crash. It's stopping us moving the telescope into the *Kepler's* path!

CROSS TO:

25. INT. CONTROL SUITE. [CONTINUOUS]

KALA:

Those fail-safes are meant to save lives. Instead they could kill us all...

DOCTOR:

There is a way, if they switch off the navigation computer and enter the co-ordinates manually.

KALA:

We're talking about three-dimensional positioning in zero gravity, and we've got minutes. Those calculations need a computer!

DOCTOR:

Or someone who's very good with sums. (INTO MIC) Adric, did you hear that?

CROSS TO:

26. INT. ASTRONOMY HUB. [CONTINUOUS]

ADRIC:

I heard.

AUTUMN:

Can you do it?

ADRIC:

I suppose...

NYSSA:

The Doctor thinks you can.

BEAT.

ADRIC:

(DETERMINED) I'll need the exact co-ordinates of the ship and the telescope before you shut down the computer.

AUTUMN:

Let's do it.

SHE TAPS CONTROLS. DATA ON SCREEN.

AUTUMN:

Co-ordinates are on screen.

NYSSA:

There. Alpha, beta and gamma axes for the *Kepler* and for the telescope.

AUTUMN:

Shutting off navigation computer... now.

COMPUTER POWERS DOWN.

ADRIC:

Okay. Got it. (TO SELF, CALCULATING) Axis to axis triangulation... alpha to alpha, beta to beta, gamma to gamma... allowing for transposed gravitational effect... Autumn, where do I input the code?

AUTUMN:

There.

ADRIC RAPIDLY INPUTS CODE ON A KEYBOARD.

AUTUMN:

The telescope array is receiving the repositioning code...

ADRIC:

Code complete!

AUTUMN:

The telescope is moving.

NYSSA:

Well done, Adric.

ADRIC:

Let's hope I got my sums right...

27. INT. CONTROL SUITE.

AUTUMN:

(D) Confirmed. The telescope is on course towards the *Kepler*.

FELL:

Kepler's speed is now one half-luminal. Time to intercept – twenty seconds.

KALA:

If your friend's calculations are out by just one degree, Doctor...

DOCTOR:

Have faith, Controller.

FELL:

Fifteen seconds...

28. EXT. SPACE.

THE *KEPLER* SHOOTS BY AT HALF THE SPEED OF LIGHT.

IT HITS THE GALLIAN TELESCOPE. AN EXPLOSION. SHIP'S ENGINES STUTTER AS IT'S KNOCKED OFF-COURSE.

29. INT. CONTROL SUITE.

FELL:

Impact!

OPERATORS:

(A CHEER GOES UP)

TEGAN:

Adric did it?

DOCTOR:

He certainly did. What's the course change?

FELL:

Checking now... (TAPS KEYS) Course deviation... six degrees! Impact zone... fifteen miles west of this location. The Saurian ['SORE-ian'] desert!

KALA:

(RELIEVED) Well done the boy.

DOCTOR:

Very well done.

FELL:

The *Kepler* is entering the atmosphere!

30. EXT. DESERT.

THE *KEPLER* SCREAMS DOWN FROM THE CLOUDS AND CRASHES, SLEWING AND TEARING A GOUGE IN ROCK AND DIRT.

31. INT. CONTROL SUITE.

TREMORS ARE FELT FROM THE CRASH. THEY FADE.

TEGAN:

Strewth. Did you feel that?

DOCTOR:

And that was from fifteen miles away.

KALA:

Imagine if that had landed on top of us.

TEGAN:

I'd rather not.

32. INT. ASTRONOMY HUB.

AS IN THE CONTROL SUITE, TREMORS SUBSIDING.

ADRIC:

We did it!

AUTUMN:

You did it! Adric, that was brilliant! I could.. no, actually, I will! (SHE HUGS HIM)

ADRIC:

Woah, steady on!

AUTUMN RELEASES ADRIC.

AUTUMN:

Three-dimensional spatial geometry, in seconds! I've never seen anything like it. So much for my being a prodigy.

NYSSA:

It was quite brilliant, Adric. You won't mind if I don't hug you?

33. INT. CONTROL SUITE.

KALA:

And now, would you two like to tell me who you are?

DOCTOR:

I'm the Doctor and this is Tegan. And what we're doing here, well...

KALA:

You know about the Leap Drive. A highly classified secret.

DOCTOR:

Yes. I can explain that...

KALA:

You're with the Earth Science Agency, aren't you?

DOCTOR:

Are we?

TEGAN:

(QUICKLY) That's classified.

KALA:

Sorry. Of course. Totally understood. We have to be discreet. But... thank you. I'm glad the E.S.A. sent you.

TEGAN:

The ee ess...?

KALA:

Don't worry. If anyone asks, you were never here.

DOCTOR:

Well, now that's all clear... I'd like to find out what went wrong with your ship. Investigate the wreckage.

KALA:

General Fell, the Doctor will be joining the crash response.

FELL:

Are you sure, Controller?

KALA:

Quite sure.

KALA AND FELL MOVE AWAY.

TEGAN:

(TO DOCTOR) You're getting heavily involved for someone who wanted to skedaddle half an hour ago.

DOCTOR:

That was then. There's something not right.

TEGAN:

You're telling me.

DOCTOR:

Not just the crash. This whole thing shouldn't be happening.

TEGAN:

What do you mean?

DOCTOR:

History records the first L.M.C. mission as a resounding success. There was no disaster, no crash... Something is interfering with the established timeline.

MUSIC SEGUE.

34. EXT. JOHANNES KEPLER CRASH SITE.

THE SMOULDERING WRECK OF THE HUGE SPACECRAFT IS STREWN ALL AROUND.

THE DOCTOR, TEGAN, FELL AND A GROUP OF RESCUERS APPROACH.

ALL ARE IN RESPIRATOR MASKS.

TEGAN:

(MASK DISTORT) Even as a wreck, this thing's impressive.

DOCTOR:

(D) The main fuselage is mostly intact. We should find a way in.

FELL:

(D) Over there. There's a cargo hatch.

35. INT. JOHANNES KEPLER: CARGO HOLD.

SPACIOUS, ECHOING METAL-WALLED AREA. A HATCH OPENS. THE DOCTOR, TEGAN, FELL AND THE RESCUE PARTY ENTER.

FELL:

(REMOVING MASK) You can remove your masks in here.

DOCTOR, TEGAN AND OTHERS REMOVE MASKS.

TEGAN:

I can't see a thing.

DOCTOR:

There's a torch fitted in your glove. Press the palm.

ALL CLICK ON THEIR GLOVE TORCHES.

TEGAN:

Woah! What's that stuff everywhere?

DOCTOR:

(WALKING FORWARD) Interesting...

TEGAN:

It looks like... coral? Red coral.

FELL:

Organic, do you think? Or - (CROUCHES DOWN)

DOCTOR:

I wouldn't touch it, General.

TEGAN:

Seen anything like this before, Doctor?

DOCTOR:

Not quite, no.

FELL:

We'll collect samples for analysis - we'll use robots, don't worry.

TEGAN:

Hey! This hatch is unlocked.

SHE OPENS IT.

TEGAN:

Dark again. I'll shine a - [light] (SHOCK) Aah!!

DOCTOR:

Tegan!

HE RUSHES TO HER SIDE.

TEGAN:

(SHAKEN) Bodies... on the floor!

FELL:

Bodies!?! (HE RUSHES OVER)

DOCTOR:

Crewmembers, I presume. Dead, I'm afraid.

TEGAN:

All covered in that red coral...

36. INT. CONTROL SUITE.

BUSTLE OF ACTIVITY. COMMS ALERT. KALA PRESSES A SWITCH.

KALA:

Go ahead, General. Any update since you found the bodies?

FELL:

(DISTORT) We've finished our search of the ship. There are no other bodies, and no signs of any further crew members.

KALA:

The *Kepler* had a crew of over three hundred... The six you found in the hold, how did they die? Was it this 'coral'?

FELL:

(D) Impossible to say. I've arranged for the bodies to be recovered for autopsy. With full quarantine procedures.

KALA:

Well done. I have new orders for you, if you're finished there.

CROSS TO:

37. INT. JOHANNES KEPLER: BRIDGE. [CONTINUOUS]

DAMAGED. SOME INSTRUMENTS SPARKING. IN FOREGROUND, DOCTOR IS TAPPING CONTROLS.

FELL:

(BACKGROUND, INTO MIC) Almost done. We're on the bridge and about to examine the flight data logs.

DOCTOR:

(STOPS TAPPING CONTROLS, HUSHED:) The General's not going to like this.

TEGAN:

What?

DOCTOR:

There's nothing in the databanks. They've been wiped. Mission log, flight history, crew bio records. Everything.

TEGAN:

Wiped? Deliberately?

DOCTOR:

And thoroughly.

FELL:

(B/G) Yes, Controller. I'll tell him. Out. (CLOSES COMMS)

TEGAN:

(TO DOCTOR) Who would do that?

FELL APPROACHES.

FELL:

Who would do what?

DOCTOR:

Wipe the data logs. It's all gone, General. Anything that might have told us where this ship has been and what happened to it.

FELL:

This is an act of war. And we're going to fight back.

TEGAN:

How?

FELL:

The *Kepler* had a sister ship, the *Carl Sagan*, that we were prepping for a rescue mission.

TEGAN:

We saw it. From your Viewing Deck.

FELL:

Controller Tace has just reactivated that mission. But with a military objective. I'll take the *Sagan* into the L.M.C., to find the enemy.

DOCTOR:

Be careful what you wish for. Look what they did to the *Kepler*.

FELL:

The *Kepler* was a civilian mission, taken by surprise. I'll have a brigade of Custodians.

DOCTOR:

How about a scientific adviser? I'd like to come with you.

FELL:

You pre-empt me, Doctor. The Controller has asked me to invite you along.

DOCTOR:

Splendid.

FELL:

Your assistant would be welcome also.

TEGAN:

Assistant? Oh. Me?

DOCTOR:

I don't know... This could be very dangerous.

TEGAN:

Then you'll need me to look after you, won't you?

MUSIC SEGUE.

38. INT. VIEWING DECK.

AUTUMN, ADRIC AND NYSSA APPROACH THE WINDOW.

ADRIC:

Now that's what I call a spaceship.

AUTUMN:

You'll get an excellent view of the launch from here.

ADRIC:

I wish I was going.

NYSSA:

The Doctor wants us to stay here to help study the red coral.

ADRIC:

I won't be much help with that.

AUTUMN:

You'll be much safer here, Adric.

ADRIC:

I don't want safe, I want excitement. Instead, Tegan gets to fly off to another galaxy and have all the fun.

AUTUMN:

You make it sound like a holiday.

NYSSA:

People usually return from holidays.

39. INT. CARL SAGAN: BRIDGE.

THE OPERATIONAL HEART OF THE CARL SAGAN. BUSTLE OF ACTIVITY.

THE DOCTOR AND TEGAN FINISH STRAPPING THEMSELVES INTO THEIR SEATS.

TEGAN:

Strapped in!

DOCTOR:

And me. (TO FELL) Ready when you are, General.

FELL:

Thank you, Doctor. (TO THE ROOM) Initiate launch sequence.

CREW OPERATE CONTROLS. SHIP'S ENGINES BUILD IN POWER.

TEGAN:

Here we go.

DOCTOR:

For now, just sit back and enjoy the ride.

FELL:

Lift-off!

ENGINES FULL THRUST. ROOM SHUDDERS.

40. EXT. GROUND DOCK.

THE CARL SAGAN'S ENGINES SURGE. THE MASSIVE SHIP LIFTS FROM ITS BERTH.

41. INT. VIEWING DECK.

THE CARL SAGAN'S ENGINES HEARD DULLY THROUGH THE GLASS.

ADRIC:

There they go.

THE SAGAN SOARS AWAY INTO THE HEAVENS.

NYSSA:

They've got a long journey ahead of them.

AUTUMN:

Not as long as you think. Once they reach the upper atmosphere they'll activate the Leap Drive.

ADRIC:

That's fast, is it?

AUTUMN:

It's not about speed. The Leap Drive folds space, like a sheet of paper. When the paper unfolds, taking them with it, they'll be a hundred thousand light years away.

ADRIC:

Clever.

NYSSA:

Safe journey, Doctor. Tegan.

42. INT. CARL SAGAN: BRIDGE.

IN FLIGHT. SHUDDERING EASES.

FELL:

(TO ROOM) Leaving the atmosphere and entering space. Stand by to activate the Leap Drive.

HE FLICKS A SWITCH. LEAP DRIVE POWERS UP.

DOCTOR:

We'll be there in no time, Tegan.

TEGAN:

Where whoever or whatever attacked the *Kepler* could be waiting for us.

DOCTOR:

That's very possible.

FELL:

Initiate Leap Drive... now!

A CONTROL IS ACTIVATED. ENGINES SURGE AND PEAK.

DOCTOR:

Next stop the Large Magellanic Cloud.

43. EXT. SPACE. [CONTINUOUS]

THE CARL SAGAN MOVING AT SPEED, ENGINES PEAKING.

THEN BOOM! SWISH! THE LEAP DRIVE KICKS IN AND THEY'RE GONE.

END OF PART ONE

PART TWO

REPRISE:

LEAP DRIVE POWERS UP.

DOCTOR:

We'll be there in no time, Tegan.

TEGAN:

Where whoever or whatever attacked the Kepler could be waiting for us.

DOCTOR:

That's very possible.

FELL:

Initiate Leap Drive... now!

A CONTROL IS ACTIVATED. ENGINES SURGE AND PEAK.

DOCTOR:

Next stop the Large Magellanic Cloud.

EXT. SPACE.

THE CARL SAGAN MOVING AT SPEED, ENGINES PEAKING.

THEN BOOM! SWISH! THE LEAP DRIVE KICKS IN AND THEY'RE GONE.

44. INT. VIEWING DECK.

A LITTLE BLEEP FROM AUTUMN'S PERSONAL COMMUNICATOR.

AUTUMN:

Looks like they'll be starting the examinations in the Science Hub in an hour or so. Want to join me?

NYSSA:

Please.

ADRIC:

I think I'll get something to eat first. Nyssa?

NYSSA:

I'm not hungry.

ADRIC:

I'll join you in a bit.

AUTUMN:

See you soon.

ADRIC LEAVES.

AUTUMN:

Nyssa... Can I ask you something?

NYSSA:

Of course.

AUTUMN:

You and Adric. Are you two...?

NYSSA:

What? ... (PENNY DROPS) Oh no! He's... no. No! Why do you ask?

AUTUMN:

No reason.

45. INT. CARL SAGAN: BRIDGE

SWISH! THE LEAP DRIVE POWERS DOWN.

FELL:

We've arrived.

TEGAN:

We're there already?

DOCTOR:

Good, isn't it?

EVERYONE RELEASES THEIR SEAT RESTRAINTS. DOCTOR AND TEGAN STAND AND WALK FORWARD.

FELL:

(TO ROOM) Open forward screens!

PANELS OVER THE VIEWING SCREEN SLIDE AWAY.

TEGAN:

Wow.

DOCTOR:

It's even more remarkable close up, isn't it?

TEGAN:

That's the Large Magdey...?

DOCTOR:

The Large Magellanic Cloud. Yes, Tegan.

FELL:

(TO ROOM) Switch to ion drive. Pilot - speed ten luminals. Course dead ahead.

ENGINES POWER UP.

FELL:

Maintain detectors at full range, three-sixty-degree sweep.

DOCTOR:

We're going in. Now we find out if anyone's waiting for us.

TEGAN:

Great.

46. INT. VIEWING GALLERY.

A COMPACT AREA. AUTUMN ENTERS WITH ADRIC AND NYSSA.

AUTUMN:

Mother? Is it alright if Adric and Nyssa sit in on the autopsies?

KALA:

Do they really want to?

ADRIC:

Not much, to be honest.

NYSSA:

The Doctor asked us to find out all we could about the red coral.

KALA:

Take a seat. The surgical robots are preparing the bodies.

AUTUMN AND NYSSA SIT.

ADRIC:

Look, Nyssa - you don't really need me here, do you?

NYSSA:

(CHIDING HIM) Adric...

AUTUMN:

Don't worry. It's all non-invasive. The surgical robot will scan the body, and the three-dimensional image will come up on this screen. No blood.

ADRIC:

(SITTING) Still. All those bodies... it's creepy.

NYSSA:

(TO KALA) I see the bodies are still covered in the coral.

KALA:

It'll be removed as part of the autopsy. The examination room is a controlled environment. If the coral is toxic, we're safe watching from here. (SHE PRESSES A SPEAKER SWITCH) Robot. You can begin.

SURGICAL ROBOT:

(SPEAKER DISTORT) Acknowledged.

CROSS TO:

47. EXAMINATION ROOM. [CONTINUOUS]

SURGICAL ROBOT:

The first cadaver is identified as Ensign Caleb Renn. Confirmed zero life signs. The body is partially encased in a red calcareous substance with the appearance of the exoskeleton secreted by certain Terran marine polyps, commonly referred to as 'coral'. Beginning scan.

A SCANNING DEVICE STARTS UP, SWEEPING THE BODY. CROSS TO:

48. INT. VIEWING GALLERY. [CONTINUOUS]

DATA BEEPS ON A MEDICAL SCREEN.

KALA:

The robot's a stickler for detail. Sorry!

AUTUMN:

The bodyscan image is coming up now.

SURGICAL ROBOT:

(D) There is no obvious damage to tissue or organs.

CROSS TO:

49. INT. EXAMINATION ROOM. [CONTINUOUS]

THE SCANNER CHANGES TONE.

SURGICAL ROBOT:

I will begin cutting away the coral with a medical laser.

THE SCANNER EMITS A HIGH PITCHED TONE. THE CORAL SIZZLES AS IT IS CUT INTO.

SURGICAL ROBOT:

Initial analysis confirms the coral is organic with a complicated molecular structure.

THE CORAL CRACKS.

LASER STOPS.

SURGICAL ROBOT:

The coral has split.

CROSS TO:

50. INT. VIEWING GALLERY. [CONTINUOUS]

KALA:

What's happening?

NYSSA:

The coral is breaking open.

AUTUMN:

Is that... smoke?

ADRIC:

Not smoke... gas!

KALA HITS A SWITCH.

KALA:

(INTO MIC) Custodian to the examination suite – now!

51. INT. EXAMINATION ROOM. [CONTINUOUS]

THE CORAL GAS HISSES AND HAS A SHIMMERING ENERGY AS IT MOVES IN THE AIR.

SURGICAL ROBOT:

The substance has transformed to a gaseous state. It is intruding into my casing.

THE ROBOT'S CASING CRACKS AND BREAKS.

SURGICAL ROBOT:

My casing has been compromised. I do not believe I will be able to...

ELECTRICAL EXPLOSIONS WITHIN THE ROBOT. IT COLLAPSES.

SURGICAL ROBOT:

(SHUTDOWN DRAWL) ... con... tinnnnnn... uuuuuuuue.

CROSS TO:

52. INT. VIEWING GALLERY. [CONTINUOUS]

AUTUMN:

It destroyed the robot!

NYSSA:

The gas went straight for it.

ADRIC

Oh no. Look. On the examination table...

KALA:

I don't believe it... Ensign Renn.

53. INT. EXAMINATION ROOM. [CONTINUOUS]

THE CORPSE OF ENSIGN RENN, NO LONGER COVERED IN CORAL, SHIFTS AND STANDS.

ROVUS (POSSESSING RENN):

(GROANS; EFFORT OF STANDING)

CROSS TO:

54. INT. VIEWING GALLERY. [CONTINUOUS]

ADRIC:

Didn't the robot confirm he was dead?

AUTUMN:

"Zero life signs."

NYSSA:

Did anyone tell Ensign Renn that?

KALA:

Look at the other examination tables! All the bodies are moving!

CROSS TO:

55. INT. EXAMINATION ROOM. [CONTINUOUS]

CORPSES:

(GROANING, AS THEY SHIFT AND STAND)

AS THE CORPSES RISE, THE CORAL SPLITS AND FALLS TO THE FLOOR.

CROSS TO:

56. INT. VIEWING GALLERY. [CONTINUOUS]

KALA:

This can't be happening!

NYSSA:

It's happening. Your dead crew are walking.

ADRIC:

The first one's coming this way!

CROSS TO:

57. INT. EXAMINATION ROOM. [CONTINUOUS]

RENN STOPS BEFORE THE MIRROR.

ROVUS (POSSESSING RENN):

(ALIEN VOICE OF ROVUS - DISEMBODIED) Who leads here? (ANGRY)
Who leads here? Speak!

CROSS TO:

58. INT. VIEWING GALLERY. [CONTINUOUS]

KALA TAPS A COMMUNICATOR SWITCH.

KALA:

Ensign Renn. Caleb. It's me, Controller Tace.

ROVUS (POSSESSING RENN):

(SPEAKER DISTORT) Controller... Come here. I wish to speak to you.

NYSSA:

There's something wrong with his voice. His lips aren't quite moving in time with the words...

KALA:

What's happened to you, Ensign?

ROVUS (POSSESSING RENN):

(D) Come here. Now.

BEAT.

KALA:

I'll be there in one moment.

SHE SWITCHES OFF THE COMMUNICATOR.

AUTUMN:

Mother, no! You saw what happened to that robot!

KALA:

I did. But those are my people in there. And whatever has happened to him, that's still Ensign Renn.

ADRIC:

Is it?

AUTUMN:

(TO KALA) Mother, you can't go in there alone!

SIMULTANEOUSLY, A CUSTODIAN RUNS IN FROM OFF.

KALA:

I'm not going in there alone. Custodian – follow me.

CUSTODIAN:

Ma'am.

DOOR OPENS. KALA AND CUSTODIAN EXIT. DOOR CLOSES. CROSS TO:

59. INT. EXAMINATION ROOM.

DOOR OPENS. KALA AND CUSTODIAN ENTER.

KALA:

Ensign Renn?

ROVUS (POSSESSING RENN):

Who is this with you? He must keep back.

KALA:

It's alright. The Custodian is only here as a precaution. (TO CUSTODIAN) Lower your gun.

CUSTODIAN:

Ma'am?

KALA:

Do it!

THE CUSTODIAN LOWERS HIS WEAPON.

KALA:

There. What did you wish to say to me, Ensign Renn?

ROVUS (POSSESSING RENN):

Controller. You will order all humans to leave this section of the Gallius base.

KALA:

All humans?? – Renn. What happened on the *Kepler*? – Answer me, Renn!

ROVUS (POSSESSING RENN):

This is not Ensign Renn. He has been integrated. These cadavers are the vessels through which we shall execute our will.

KALA:

'We'? Who's 'we'?

ROVUS (POSSESSING RENN):

You will learn.

KALA:

Custodian – restrain him.

CUSTODIAN:

Yes, Controller.

CUSTODIAN MOVES FORWARD.

ROVUS (POSSESSING RENN):

I told your guard to keep back. That was his only warning.

THE RED CORAL ACROSS THE FLOOR SUDDENLY ACTIVE. SHIFTING.

CUSTODIAN:

(ALARM) Ma'am – the coral...!

KALA:

You're doing that, aren't you, Renn? You're making the coral move! What is it?

ROVUS (POSSESSING RENN):

It is his death.

THE CORAL CRACKS AND BEGINS TO TRANSFORM. CROSS TO:

60. INT. VIEWING GALLERY. [CONTINUOUS]

NYSSA:

The coral is changing its state again!

ADRIC:

Becoming a gas...

AUTUMN:

(SHOUTING) Mother! Get out of there!

CROSS TO:

61. INT. EXAMINATION ROOM. [CONTINUOUS]

GAS SURGES.

CUSTODIAN:

(PANICKY) Ma'am...?!

KALA:

Whoever that is, Custodian – it isn't Renn. Shoot him! Shoot to kill!

THE CUSTODIAN FIRES. RENN STAGGERS SLIGHTLY UNDER IMPACT.

ROVUS (POSSESSING RENN):

This body is dead already. You cannot kill it twice.

KALA:

Custodian! Get back! Cover your mouth!

THE GAS SURGES AT THE CUSTODIAN, ENVELOPS HIM.

CUSTODIAN:

(COUGHS, CHOKES)

ROVUS (POSSESSING RENN):

Let the gas embrace you. Join us in death.

CUSTODIAN:

(COUGHING) My head... There's a voice in my head...!

KALA:

Custodian?

ROVUS (POSSESSING RENN):

His mind is being destroyed... displaced.

CUSTODIAN:

(COLLAPSES, CHOKING. LIES STILL)

BEAT.

KALA:

Is he dead...?

ROVUS (POSSESSING RENN):

You have ten minutes to evacuate all humans from this section!
After that time, any humans found here will also be integrated.

KALA:

You mean killed, like my Custodian.

ROVUS (POSSESSING RENN):

Your guard is ours now.

KALA:

Yours??

THE DEAD CUSTODIAN STIRS, AND STANDS.

CUSTODIAN:

(EFFORT OF STANDING. POSSESSED BY ROVUS:) Ma'am.

KALA:

Custodian!

ROVUS (POSSESSING RENN):

Ours.

KALA:

Why are you doing this to our dead? What do you want?

ROVUS (POSSESSING RENN):

Do as I tell you. Go.

KALA EXITS. DOOR. CROSS TO:

62. INT. CORRIDOR. [CONTINUOUS]

DOOR OPENS. KALA EXITS. DOOR CLOSES. AUTUMN, NYSSA AND ADRIC JOIN KALA.

AUTUMN:

Mother, are you alright?

ADRIC:

You were very brave, Controller.

KALA:

I don't understand. Someone kills our people... then takes over their bodies? Why?

NYSSA:

What matters for now is to keep everyone else safe.

KALA:

You're right.

KALA HITS A WALL SWITCH.

KALA:

(HER VOICE REVERBERATES ON SPEAKERS) This is Controller Tace. Due to an emergency, all operatives in the Science Hub will evacuate immediately. Repeat, evacuate!

63. INT. CARL SAGAN — BRIDGE.

IN FLIGHT. CREW BUSY. DETECTORS PINGING IN BACKGROUND.

FELL:

This is the plan. We follow the intended route of the *Johannes Kepler*, while scanning for ship residue.

DOCTOR:

And, what, hope we run into the same trouble the *Kepler* did?

FELL:

For the last time, Doctor: the *Kepler* was a scientific mission. Ours is military. I told you, I've got a brigade of Custodians on board.

TEGAN:

Custodians of what?

FELL:

Good order.

DOCTOR:

Soldiers, Tegan. General — do we have communications with Gallius U?

FELL:

No. Same as the *Kepler*, we lost comms when we entered the cloud. It's expected, we had the same issue with the unmanned probes we'd sent in previously. But the *Kepler* was supposed to launch a message packet out of the cloud with updates. That didn't happen.

DOCTOR:

When was the first packet due?

FELL:

No later than twelve hours after arrival.

TEGAN:

Then whatever happened to the *Kepler*, it happened within the first twelve hours.

DOCTOR:

Did any of your previous unmanned probes have difficulties?

FELL:

There were three probe missions. We lost one. Although that wasn't a surprise.

DOCTOR:

Why not?

FELL:

The first two didn't come far into the cloud. But the third went into the Tarantula Nebula.

TEGAN:

Tarantula. Sounds spooky.

DOCTOR:

The Tarantula Nebula, or 30 Derondus, is full of new stars. Intense radiation and stellar winds. Inhospitable, to say the least.

INSTRUMENTS PING AN ALERT.

DOCTOR:

What's that?

FELL:

Detector alert. Let's see... (TAPS CONTROLS) Several objects drifting on a bearing of one-eight-eight. At a distance of point-two K.P.C. (TO CREW) Set a new course, Pilot. Bearing one-eight-eight, four luminals.

ENGINES SURGE.

TEGAN:

We might have got lucky.

DOCTOR:

'Lucky'. I wonder.

64. INT. CONTROL SUITE.

ALARMS SOUNDING. OPERATORS BUSY AT WORKSTATIONS AS KALA, AUTUMN, ADRIC AND NYSSA RUN IN.

KALA:

(ENTERING) Crewman, seal bulkhead six!

CREWMAN:

Ma'am!

CREWMAN HITS A SWITCH THAT RESPONDS WITH AN EMPHATIC TONE.

KALA:

At least now those things are contained to the Science Hub.

NYSSA:

That's what they seem to want, though.

ADRIC:

Maybe they don't want us to see what they're doing.

AUTUMN:

Then they're out of luck. I can bring up vision from the examination room...

KALA:

Do it.

AUTUMN HITS A SWITCH. IMAGE BLIPS ON.

AUTUMN:

The cheeky...!

NYSSA:

They're accessing the computers!

KALA:

Shut off network access in the Science Hub!

AUTUMN:

I'll do it. (PRESSES SWITCHES - UNHELPFUL SULLEN BEEP) No response. They've overridden the system!

ADRIC:

What can they do with computer access?

KALA:

Study our records, base layout, personnel data...

NYSSA:

He's gone.

KALA:

What? Who's gone?

NYSSA:

Renn. He isn't in the examination room.

AUTUMN:

You're right... I'll bring up the corridors.

BLIP. IMAGE CHANGES.

KALA:

Good grief.

NYSSA:

There's coral everywhere. It's spread from the examination room.

ADRIC:

Wait! There's Renn. In corridor 4M.

AUTUMN:

Enlarging. (A BEEP. THE IMAGE CHANGES) What's he doing?

NYSSA:

Just standing there, it seems. Watching the coral.

KALA:

What are they up to?

AUTUMN:

I assume at some point they're going to come out of the Science Hub.

ADRIC:

Couldn't your Custodians deal with them?

KALA:

You saw what happened to the Custodian in the examination room. And I don't have many – the main garrison left with General Fell.

NYSSA:

The red coral is the key to it all. We need an inert sample for analysis.

ADRIC:

We can't go back to the Science Hub!

NYSSA:

We don't have to. There's still plenty on the *Kepler*.

KALA:

The *Kepler*. Of course. I'll send a robot over.

NYSSA:

No. We know they're vulnerable to the coral. I'll go and recover a sample myself.

AUTUMN:

We'll all go. You, me and Adric.

ADRIC:

You've seen how dangerous that stuff is, Autumn. I don't think we should go near it.

NYSSA:

Have you got a better idea, Adric?

ADRIC:

Well... (HE DOESN'T; RESIGNED) Oh, alright then!

KALA:

While you're doing that, I'll send a distress signal to Earth Control, requesting urgent military assistance.

SHE KEYS IN A SEQUENCE OF BUTTONS.

KALA:

They should respond – [quickly]

ERROR RESPONSE FROM THE INSTRUMENTS.

KALA:

No. Oh no.

NYSSA:

What's wrong?

KALA:

Our communications are jammed.

KALA TRIES AGAIN. SAME RESPONSE.

KALA:

They've cut us off. We're on our own.

65. INT. CARL SAGAN: BRIDGE.

ENGINES POWER DOWN.

FELL:

We've arrived. Let's see what's out there. Open view screen!

VIEW SCREEN OPENS.

FELL:

Gods. This is it.

DOCTOR:

Definitely parts of the *Kepler*.

TEGAN:

Hey, see in the middle there? That piece looks almost intact.

FELL:

You're right. That's one of the explorer modules. It must have become detached.

TEGAN:

Could there be people still alive on there?

FELL:

Local radiation makes a scan impossible. But there could be life support. I'll take a boarding party and investigate.

DOCTOR:

I'll come with you.

TEGAN:

And me!

FELL:

This isn't a pleasure trip. But... Very well. Get suited up.

66. INT. JOHANNES KEPLER: CARGO HOLD.

HATCH OPENS. NYSSA, AUTUMN AND ADRIC ENTER AND ACTIVATE GLOVE TORCHES.

ADRIC:

(MASK DISTORT) There's coral everywhere.

AUTUMN:

(D) I'd keep your masks on, just in case. And before you go any further, let me run a scan. Make sure it's inert.

NYSSA:

(D) Go ahead.

AUTUMN STEPS FORWARD, ACTIVATES A HANDHELD SCANNER.

AUTUMN:

(D) Looks good. Where do you want to collect your sample?

NYSSA:

(D) From the wall here is as good as any.

AUTUMN:

(D) I'll scan that a little deeper. To the atomic level.

AUTUMN APPLIES THE BUZZING SCANNER CLOSE TO THE CORAL.

NYSSA:

(D) I'll only need a small sample. I'll take it back for —
[analysis]

THE CORAL CRACKS.

AUTUMN:

(D) It's active!

NYSSA:

(D) We know what comes next — the gas.

THE CORAL ALL AROUND THEM FRACTURES, SPLITS, TRANSFORMING TO HISSING ENERGISED GAS.

ADRIC:

(D) Get out! Run!

THEY RUN FOR THE HATCH AND THROW THEMSELVES OUT. CROSS TO:

67. EXT. CRASH SITE. [CONTINUOUS]

NYSSA, ADRIC AND AUTUMN THROW THEMSELVES FROM THE HATCH,
SLAMMING IT / SEALING IT BEHIND THEM.

ADRIC, AUTUMN AND NYSSA:

(MASK DISTORT) (HITTING THE GROUND) Oof!

THE GAS HISSES WITHIN THE HOLD.

NYSSA:

(D) It's like it reacted to something.

ADRIC:

(D) The Doctor and Tegan were in there before. Nothing happened then.

AUTUMN:

(D) They didn't run a scan.

ADRIC:

(D) That's what happened in the examination room! Everything was fine until the robot ran its scan.

NYSSA:

(D) It's organic... I suppose it could have reacted to the electromagnetic radiation from the scanner. Well, we might not have got our sample, but we learned something. Come on, let's get back.

THEY HURRY OFF.

68. INT. CARL SAGAN: AIRLOCK.

FELL, THE DOCTOR AND TEGAN, TOGETHER WITH A SECURITY PARTY OF FOUR CUSTODIANS HEFTING BLASTERS.

A WALL CONTROL PINGS.

FELL:

Alright. We've docked, and there's atmosphere in there. Custodians will lead the way - keep your blasters primed and ready to fire. (THEY DO SO.) Doctor, Tegan, stay close to me.

DOCTOR:

Lead on.

CROSS TO:

69. EXPLORER MODULE: AIRLOCK CORRIDOR.

METAL WALLS AND FLOORS. EERILY QUIET.

A HEAVY AIRLOCK UNSEALS AND OPENS. THE DOCTOR, TEGAN, FELL AND TWO ARMED CUSTODIANS ENTER.

DOCTOR:

Quiet as the...

TEGAN:

(STOPPING HIM) Doctor.

DOCTOR:

Yes. Well, it's quiet.

TEGAN:

(POINTING) More of that red coral. On the wall, see?

DOCTOR:

Until we know its properties, we should keep clear.

FELL:

We'll conduct a systematic search. Starting in the - [rear]

A CLANG OF MOVEMENT FROM THE DARK. CUSTODIANS RAISE THEIR GUNS.

FELL:

Who's there?!

BEAT.

DOCTOR:

Whoever it is, it seems they're shy.

FELL:

(SOTTO) If they won't come to us, we'll go to them. Forward, Slowly.

THEY START FORWARD.

TEGAN:

Hey. There's a light down there.

DOCTOR:

Oh yes... A glow.

FELL:

Let's take a closer look.

THE GROUP MOVES OFF. CROSS TO:

70. INT. KEPLER SECTION: CORRIDOR.

A STAR MAN PORTAL IS ACROSS THE CORRIDOR. A GLOWING ORGANIC OPENING. FAINT HUM OF POWER.

DOCTOR, TEGAN, FELL AND CUSTODIANS APPROACH.

FELL:

What in the name of... ?

TEGAN:

Red coral again. It's blocking the corridor. Some kind of barricade?

DOCTOR:

Rather flimsy for a barricade. Coral round the outside, but in the middle... thin, like a membrane.

TEGAN:

What's making it glow?

DOCTOR:

It's energised in some way.

DOCTOR MOVES FORWARD.

TEGAN:

Careful, Doctor...!

NOMAR RUSHES IN FROM BEHIND THEM. BEDRAGGLED, WEAK.

NOMAR:

No! Stay back!

CUSTODIANS RAISE THEIR GUNS.

FELL:

Who the dreck are you?! Stand still or we'll shoot!

NOMAR:

You must keep away from the portal! Please. It's not safe!

DOCTOR:

We should do as he says.

FELL:

He's alien, Doctor. Look at his eyes!

TEGAN:

Look at his clothes - they're in rags. He's in a bad way.

FELL:

(TO NOMAR) Who are you? What have you done to this ship and its crew?

NOMAR:

None of this is my doing. I'm sorry, but... all your people were killed.

FELL:

What?!

THE PORTAL SURGES WITH POWER.

TEGAN:

What's happening?

DOCTOR:

The 'portal', as our friend here called it, seems to be powering up.

NOMAR:

We should get away! It's opening.

TEGAN:

Doctor, someone's coming through!

THE SHIMMERING PRESENCE OF A STAR MAN MOVES TOWARDS US FROM THE OTHER SIDE OF THE PORTAL.

FELL:

I see them. (PEERS) Is that a man? It has a man's shape... but there's nothing to it. Full of... lights?

NOMAR:

(FEARFUL) They are the Star Men.

TEGAN:

Now you mention it, he does look like he's made of stars.

ROVUS STEPS IN THROUGH THE PORTAL. HE — LIKE ALL STAR MEN — HAS A SHIMMERING PRESENCE, WHICH RESONATES AS HE MOVES.

DOCTOR:

(WARY) Hello... Who are you?

NO REPLY.

FELL:

Can it hear us?

NOMAR:

(ANGER) It hears you. This is the murderer of your people.

FELL:

Is that right? Did you kill the crew of this ship?

DOCTOR:

Perhaps if we could calm down...

ROVUS:

They died as you will all die. (TO TEGAN) You. The female.

TEGAN:

I do have a name, as it happens. It's — (GRABBED) Aah!

ROVUS:

You will come with me.

HE DRAGS HER INTO THE PORTAL.

TEGAN:

Doctor, help!

DOCTOR:

(TO ROVUS) Please, leave my friend alone!

TEGAN:

(ENTERING THE PORTAL AND FADING) Doctor...!!!

FELL:

Custodians!

DOCTOR:

No, don't shoot! You might hit [Tegan!]

FELL:

Open fire!!!

THE PORTAL'S POWER FADES AWAY AS THE CUSTODIANS OPEN FIRE, BLASTING APART THE PORTAL MEMBRANE, SHATTERING THE CORAL SURROUND.

DOCTOR:

They've gone. Stop shooting!!

FELL:

Cease fire!

SHOOTING STOPS.

DOCTOR:

You idiots, you've destroyed the portal! How can we get Tegan back now!?

NOMAR:

Your friend is lost.

DOCTOR:

Do you know where that portal leads?!

NOMAR:

To the world of the Star Men. Within the nebula.

THE CORAL AROUND THEM CRACKS AND SPLITS. TRANSFORMS TO GAS.

FELL:

That coral, it's cracking. - Is that gas?

NOMAR:

(MOVING AWAY) The red cloud! (RUNNING) Run or you will die!

DOCTOR:

You heard him! Run!

THEY RUN. THE GAS HISSES AND FOLLOWS THEM.

71. INT. EXPLORER MODULE: AIRLOCK CORRIDOR.

DOCTOR, FELL, NOMAR AND CUSTODIANS RUN IN. THE GAS HISSING TOWARDS US IN BACKGROUND.

DOCTOR:

Into the airlock, all of you! Quickly!

FELL:

The alien, too?

DOCTOR:

We can't leave him here to die. Everybody in!

THEY ENTER THE AIRLOCK, WHICH SLAMS SHUT. CROSS TO:

72. INT. CARL SAGAN: AIRLOCK.

AIRLOCK CLOSES. FELL ACTIVATES A WALL COMMUNICATOR.

FELL:

(INTO MIC) Pilot – this is the General. Get us away from here!

MOMENTS LATER, A HEAVY CLUNK AS THE SAGAN DISENGAGES. ENGINES SURGE AS IT PULLS AWAY.

DOCTOR:

(RELIEF) Just in time.

FELL:

Custodians, watch that alien!

NOMAR:

I mean you no harm.

DOCTOR:

Thank you for trying to warn us. I'm the Doctor, by the way.

NOMAR:

I am Nomar, of the Vileri. Please.. do you have any food?

FELL:

Never mind food. You've got questions to answer.

DOCTOR:

As part of a civilised conversation, General. Yes, Nomar, we have food. Then I'd like to know more about these 'Star Men'. And where they've taken Tegan.

73. INT. CONTROL SUITE.

KALA:

The coral was activated by the scan?

NYSSA:

It must react to a power source. Though it's an organism in its own right, it might possibly controlled by others.

AUTUMN:

In the same way Renn and the other dead are being controlled.

ADRIC:

What's Renn doing now?

KALA:

He's still in that corridor. The coral is growing up the walls there. He watches it. Like he's guarding it.

AUTUMN:

Are they still jamming our communications?

KALA:

Yes.

AUTUMN:

We have to get help. We have to get a message out.

ADRIC:

How?

AUTUMN:

There might be a way.

74. INT. CARL SAGAN: BRIDGE.

NOMAR EATING FROM A BOWL.

NOMAR:

(EATING) Thank you. This is good. I have not eaten in three days...

FELL:

You can talk while you're eating.

DOCTOR:

Nomar. Your people, the Vileri. Do they come from this galaxy?

NOMAR:

We are an old people, and proud.

DOCTOR:

I've not heard of a race like these 'Star Men' before. Their appearance is quite unique.

NOMAR:

Their true name, the name of their species, is the Keltin. They came to conquer my world. They numbered few, no more than a score.

FELL:

As few as that?

NOMAR:

They were all-powerful. They slaughtered many of my people. Others they took as prisoners – to work as slaves in their mines, or in their great Citadel. That is where I served them. Until my escape.

DOCTOR:

Where is this Citadel of theirs?

NOMAR:

On a planetoid. A rock they have occupied. In the nebula from which they appeared. The nebula of the stars.

DOCTOR:

The Tarantula Nebula.

NOMAR:

I do not know that name.

FELL:

They come from that hell hole?

DOCTOR:

That must be where they've taken Tegan. General – will you help me get her back?

FELL:

More than that. We're going on the attack.

DOCTOR:

What?

FELL:

You heard him. There aren't many of these 'Star Men'. We'll go to their world alright. And we'll wipe them off the face of it before they can attack anyone again.

DOCTOR:

You saw what they did to the *Kepler*!

FELL:

The *Kepler* was a civilian research mission. We're trained for this.

NOMAR:

This '*Kepler*'. Was it a ship like this?

DOCTOR:

Yes.

NOMAR:

It was engulfed in the red cloud.

DOCTOR:

Red cloud? That's what you called the gas that came from the coral.

NOMAR:

The red rock. The red cloud. They are controlled by the Star Men. I think... I think they are the essence of the Star Men.

DOCTOR:

How interesting. What do you mean by – [that]?

FELL:

Nomar. If we go to the nebula, could you lead us to this planetoid?

NOMAR:

I could. Many of my people are enslaved there still.

FELL:

You guide us there, we'll take care of the Star Men. We'll free your people. And get Tegan back for you, Doctor.

FELL WALKS AWAY.

FELL:

(MOVING AWAY) Set course for the Tarantula Nebula!

DOCTOR:

Nomar. Do you really think the General can defeat the Star Men?

NOMAR:

I will take any chance to free my people. However small.

DOCTOR:

But do you think the Star Men can be beaten?

BEAT.

NOMAR:

No.

DOCTOR:

Oh, Tegan...

75. INT. DETENTION CHAMBER.

A HIGH-CEILINGED MARBLE CHAMBER.

TEGAN:

Who are you? What are you?

ROVUS:

I am Rovus. Imperator [imper-RA-tor] of the Keltin, known to some as the Star Men.

TEGAN:

You don't look much like a man. More like a walking hole in the air.

ROVUS:

You lack the ability to comprehend a life form that does not correspond to your experience.

TEGAN:

(SOTTO) I know a hole when I see it. (ALOUD) Where is this place?

ROVUS:

You are in a detention chamber within our Citadel. We are many light years from your friends. But they will be coming to rescue you. They have Nomar to show them the way.

TEGAN:

They're coming??

ROVUS:

I hope so. That's why I took you. As bait.

TEGAN:

Bait?! — Oh, no...!

ROVUS:

We are ready for them, and shall destroy them. Entirely.

TEGAN:

You don't need to do that!

HE STRIDES TO THE EXIT.

ROVUS:

You will remain here.

TEGAN:

Listen to me!

ROVUS:

You live only so long as you are useful to us.

ROVUS EXITS. A DOOR SLAMS DOWN.

TEGAN RUNS TO THE DOOR, HAMMERS ON IT.

TEGAN:

Oi! Come back! ... (STOPS HAMMERING) Rabbits.

76. INT. CONTROL SUITE.

AUTUMN:

Mother — I think I know how we can beat the jamming.

KALA:

I'm listening, Autumn.

AUTUMN:

By using our satellites! — Think about it. The satellites transmit telemetry data. That's a form of communication. I can reconfigure the satellite data net to receive the distress message and retransmit it to Earth Control. Bypassing the comms system.

KALA:

That could work.

ADRIC:

It's rather clever. Brilliant, in fact.

AUTUMN:

Thank you, Adric.

NYSSA:

Yes, but can you do it from here?

AUTUMN:

From the Central Power Room. It's not far.

KALA:

Do it. But be careful, and stay in touch.

ADRIC:

I'll come with you.

AUTUMN:

(BRIGHTLY) Thanks. Let's go.

NYSSA:

Good luck.

ADRIC AND AUTUMN EXIT.

NYSSA:

We should check the Science Hub.

BLIP. IMAGE ON SCREEN.

KALA:

That's odd. The other dead crewmen have joined Renn in that corridor.

NYSSA:

What are they up to?

KALA:

It might be clearer once one or two of them move out of the way. There isn't another view unfortunately. Ah, and as I say that, there you go... Oh. What is that, across the corridor? A barricade?

NYSSA:

Strange. Looks like they've spun some kind of organic material across the middle.

KALA:

It doesn't look like coral. More like...

NYSSA:

Like skin.

77. INT. CARL SAGAN: BRIDGE.

THE FRONT VIEWSCREEN OPENS.

FELL:

There it is. The Tarantula Nebula.

DOCTOR:

The brightest star-forming region anywhere in this corner of the universe. It's quite a sight.

NOMAR:

Very dangerous. The Vileri would not come here through choice.

DOCTOR:

I don't blame you. The stars give off fierce radiation, and the stellar winds heat some areas to millions of degrees.

FELL:

This is an Explorer-class ship. It's up to the job. [TO THE PILOT:] Pilot, divert power to the forward shields.

PILOT:

Yes, General.

WE HEAR THE FORWARD SHIELDS POWERING UP.

FELL:

Nomar, you said the planetoid is near to the central star cluster?

NOMAR:

It is.

FELL:

That's cluster R-one-thirty-six. We'll head there, and you can guide us as we get closer. (TO CREW) All engines full ahead!

THE ENGINES SURGE.

DOCTOR:

(TO SELF) Brave heart, Tegan. We're on our way.

78. INT. CORRIDOR.

ADRIC AND AUTUMN APPROACH AND STOP.

ADRIC:

Is this it?

AUTUMN:

Yes, this is the power room.

SHE OPERATES A KEYPAD. DOOR OPENS. CROSS TO:

79. INT. POWER ROOM. [CONTINUOUS]

ADRIC AND AUTUMN HALT ON THE THRESHOLD.

AUTUMN:

Woah! Red coral!

ADRIC:

Keep away from it.

AUTUMN:

There are marks on the wall by the air vents. It must have come in as a gas and solidified.

ADRIC:

Where are the controls we need?

AUTUMN:

It's that bank of switches over there.

ADRIC:

They're clear. (CROSSES TO INSTRUMENTS) We can still do this.

AUTUMN REMAINS WHERE SHE IS.

AUTUMN:

Adric, come back. This stuff is deadly.

ADRIC:

All the more reason to get that message out before it spreads further.

THE CORAL CRACKS AND SPLITS. FORMING GAS, BEHIND FOLLOWING.

AUTUMN:

Adric, get out! It's forming the gas!

ADRIC:

Quickly, tell me what to do! What switches?

AUTUMN:

I'm coming over.

ADRIC:

Stay back! There's no need for both of us to be at risk.

AUTUMN:

Well, if you're sure -

ADRIC:

Of course I'm sure! Now what do I do?!

AUTUMN:

It's the eight red switches. One for each satellite in the net. Go from left to right. But this is important - you have to wait for each one to go green.

ADRIC:

Got it. Starting now.

HE PUSHES THE FIRST SWITCH. AFTER A MOMENT, A TONE AS IT TURNS GREEN. THEN THE NEXT.

ADRIC:

Come on, come on...

THE GAS HISSES AND SWIRLS. CROSS TO:

80. INT. CONTROL SUITE.

KALA:

Autumn and Adric should be in the power room now. I'll put it on screen.

SHE ACTIVATES THE SCREEN. WE HEAR THE CRACKING CORAL, THE FORMING GAS.

NYSSA:

(SHOCKED) Adric!

CROSS TO:

81. INT. POWER ROOM. [CONTINUOUS]

A GREEN LIGHT TONE.

ADRIC:

Three more to go. It takes an age for those green lights to come on!

THE GAS CLOSES ON ADRIC.

AUTUMN:

Adric, there's no time! The gas is heading your way. Run!

ADRIC:

I'm nearly there! Ten seconds!

AUTUMN:

You don't have ten seconds!

HE HITS A SWITCH. AND WAITS.

ADRIC:

Oh come on, come on...! (COUGHS, CHOKING, AS THE GAS ENVELOPS HIM)

CROSS TO:

82. INT. CONTROL SUITE. [CONTINUOUS]

NYSSA:

Adric! No!

KALA:

It's got him. Just like my Custodian.

CROSS TO:

83. INT. POWER ROOM. [CONTINUOUS]

ADRIC:

(COUGHING, CHOKING) I can't... breathe!

ROVUS:

(TELEPATHIC – IN ADRIC'S HEAD) You have failed, boy!

ADRIC:

What? – Who are you?!

AUTUMN:

Adric? Who are you talking to?

ADRIC:

I heard a voice! A voice in my head! The same voice that was in Ensign Renn!

ROVUS:

(TELEPATHIC) (CHUCKLES)

ADRIC:

Get out! Get out of my mind!!!

ROVUS:

(TELEPATHIC) I will destroy your mind, boy – you will belong to the Star Men!

A RESONATING ENERGY BUILDS UP INSIDE ADRIC'S HEAD – TARGETING HIS MIND.

ADRIC:

(PAINED) No. No...!!!

END OF PART TWO

PART THREE

REPRISE:

ADRIC:

Get out! Get out of my mind!!!

ROVUS:

(TELEPATHIC) I will destroy your mind, boy – you will belong to the Star Men!

A RESONATING ENERGY BUILDS UP INSIDE ADRIC'S HEAD – TARGETING HIS MIND.

ADRIC:

(PAINED) No. No...!!!

84. INT. POWER ROOM. [CONTINUOUS]

RESONATING ENERGY CONTINUES – ADRIC'S POV.

ADRIC:

(EFFORT) I'll fight you!

ROVUS:

(TELEPATHIC) Impossible.

AUTUMN:

Adric. Yes! Whoever it is, fight them!

ADRIC:

(WHILE GASPING FOR BREATH) Two... Three... Five...

ROVUS:

(TELEPATHIC) What are you doing, boy?

ADRIC:

... seven... eleven... thirteen... seventeen... nineteen... twenty-three!

(PAIN) Aaargh!

ROVUS:

(TELEPATHIC) Clever. But you will not succeed.

ADRIC:

(RENEWED DETERMINATION) Twenty-nine. Thirty-one. Thirty-seven... Forty-one. Forty-three. Forty-seven...

CROSS TO:

85. INT. CONTROL SUITE. [CONTINUOUS]

NB: ENERGY SOUND CAN'T BE HEARD (IE, NOT ADRIC'S POV).

ADRIC:

(D) Fifty-three. Fifty-nine. Sixty-one! (IN BACKGROUND BEHIND FOLLOWING DIALOGUE) Sixty-seven... Seventy-one. Seventy-three... (RACKING COUGH) Seventy-nine. Eighty-three...

KALA:

What's he doing?

NYSSA:

He's reciting prime numbers. Mental strength. That's how he's fighting it. - Go on, Adric!

KALA:

Brave lad.

NYSSA:

Let's get down there!

KALA:

This way. (MOVES OFF)

KALA AND NYSSA EXIT.

ADRIC:

(D) ... Eighty-nine. Ninety-seven!

CROSS TO:

86. INT. POWER ROOM. [CONTINUOUS]

RESONATING ENERGY CONTINUES — ADRIC'S POV.

AUTUMN:

I'm here, Adric. Keep fighting!

ADRIC:

(COUGHING) One hundred and one. One hundred and three... One hundred and seven!

ROVUS:

(TELEPATHIC) Give in, boy... surrender. I feel your mind weaken.

ADRIC:

Zero!

ROVUS:

(TELEPATHIC) Ha! That's not a prime, boy!

ADRIC:

(RAPID. STRAINING AGAINST ROVUS'S FORCE) I got... tired... of primes. One. One. Two. Three. Five. Eight. Thirteen. Twenty-one. Thirty-four. Fifty-five. Eighty-nine. One hundred and forty-four!

CROSS TO:

87. INT. POWER ROOM DOORWAY.

NB: ENERGY SOUND CAN'T BE HEARD (IE, NOT ADRIC'S POV).

NYSSA AND KALA RUN UP TO JOIN AUTUMN.

KALA:

Autumn!

AUTUMN:

Mother! It's got Adric! We have to do something!

NYSSA:

No. Adric's already doing it. He's putting up a fight, using mathematical sequences. Prime numbers, and now the Fibonacci sequence. Go on, Adric!

88. INT. POWER ROOM. [CONTINUOUS]

RESONATING ENERGY BEGINS TO WANE — ADRIC'S POV.

ROVUS:

(TELEPATHIC) (LOSING THE FIGHT) You are strong.. Impressive.

ADRIC:

Get out of my head! ... Six! Twenty-eight!

THE GAS NOW SWIRLING FRANTICALLY, WITH A STUTTERING SHIMMER.
LOSING THE FIGHT.

ADRIC:

Four hundred and ninety-six! Eight thousand one hundred and
twenty-eight! Thirty-three million, five hundred and fifty
million, three hundred and six! ...

ROVUS:

(TELEPATHIC) (FRUSTRATED CRY OF DEFEAT) Pah!

ENERGY SOUND FADES SUDDENLY AS ROVUS RECEDES. THE GAS HOVERS,
SWIRLS.

ADRIC:

(WEAK) It's gone.

NYSSA:

(AT DOOR) Oh, well done, Adric!

ADRIC:

(WEAK) Not a bad effort, was it-? (SWOONS)

ADRIC COLLAPSES.

NYSSA:

He's collapsed. (RUSHES FORWARD)

AUTUMN:

Adric! (RUSHES FORWARD)

KALA:

Autumn, wait!

NYSSA RUNS TO ADRIC, GRABS HIM.

NYSSA:

(DRAGGING ADRIC) Autumn, help me get him out!

NYSSA AND AUTUMN DRAG ADRIC TO THE DOOR.

89. INT. CITADEL CHAMBER.

ROVUS:

Beaten by that child!

VEDRIN:

He survived?

ROVUS:

He built patterned structures in his mind. A wall of distraction. Quite impressive. He knows the discipline of numbers, and their power.

VEDRIN:

Is this a threat?

ROVUS:

A short-lived victory, Vedrin. Nothing more.

90. INT. POWER ROOM CORRIDOR.

NYSSA and AUTUMN:

(EFFORT AS THEY DRAG ADRIC)

KALA:

Put the boy down here!

NYSSA and AUTUMN:

(EFFORT AS THEY LOWER ADRIC TO THE FLOOR)

AUTUMN:

Adric! Can you hear me? Adric!

NYSSA:

He's not responding.

AUTUMN:

Oh no...!

NYSSA:

He's alive. Just unconscious.

KALA:

We'll take him to a recovery room.

CRUNCHING, CRACKLING FROM THE POWER ROOM, AS THE GAS RECOALESCES IN SOLID FORM.

KALA:

What's happening in the Power Room?

AUTUMN GOES TO THE DOOR.

AUTUMN:

The gas has hardened back into coral. (DISPIRITED) It's all over the instruments. We can't reach the controls now.

NYSSA:

Seal the room.

AUTUMN PRESSES THE KEYPAD AND THE DOOR CLOSES.

91. INT. CARL SAGAN: BRIDGE.

IN FLIGHT. BUFFETED BY STELLAR WINDS — THE HULL STRAINING.
DIALOGUE PITCHED ABOVE THE NOISE.

FELL:

The stellar winds are worse than I thought!

DOCTOR:

There's no turning back now!

NOMAR:

There! There is the home of the Star Men.

DOCTOR:

Dear me, it is a rock, isn't it? Right in the path of the stellar winds, too.

NOMAR:

It's a hell planet. My people labour and die each day in those gales.

FELL:

The Sagan will go into orbit. We'll take assault ships down to the surface and press our attack.

DOCTOR:

General Fell. Wouldn't it be wiser to get the lay of the land first?

FELL:

If the Star Men detect us in orbit, I'm not going to give them time to prepare their defences.

DOCTOR:

But surely...

FELL:

No more talking. (TO CREW) Battle stations everyone!

AN ALERT KLAXON SOUNDS.

92. INT. RECOVERY ROOM.

A SMALL ROOM. MEDICAL MONITORS BEEP.

AUTUMN:

(EMOTIONAL) Will Adric be alright?

KALA:

The medics say he'll recover. There's no trace of toxins in his system.

AUTUMN:

He was very brave. He insisted on working the controls himself. He didn't want me to put myself in danger.

NYSSA:

Really?

KALA:

I need to get back to the control suite.

NYSSA:

There's nothing more we can do here. - Coming, Autumn?

AUTUMN:

I'd like to stay with Adric.

NYSSA:

Oh... Well, let us know when he comes round, won't you?

AUTUMN:

Of course.

NYSSA AND KALA EXIT.

93. INT. ASSAULT SHIP: COCKPIT.

MUCH MORE COMPACT & LESS LUXURIOUS THAN THE CARL SAGAN - THINK THE DROPSHIP IN ALIENS VS THE USS SULACO. IN RAPID DESCENT, BUFFETED BY STELLAR WINDS.

NOMAR:

There! There's the Citadel!

DOCTOR:

Goodness. Big, isn't it? Cleverly built, too. Angular lines to deflect the stellar winds. I wonder...

FELL:

We'll land on the plain in front of it. If you two are going to join us you'd better get into survival suits.

HE KEYS A MIC.

FELL:

General Fell to all assault ships. We're going in. Follow my flight path. Once we land, our objective is the Citadel.

HE SWITCHES OFF THE MIC. 'ABOUT TO LAND' PROXIMITY ALARMS SOUND. LANDING BOOSTERS FIRE UP.

FELL:

Brace for landing!

94. EXT. PLANETOID: PLAIN.

SAVAGE, CUTTING WINDS LASH THE ROCK/DIRT LANDSCAPE.

FELL'S ASSAULT SHIP AND TEN OTHERS SWOOP IN AND LAND. AT TOUCHDOWN, RAMPS DESCEND AND TWENTY TO THIRTY CUSTODIANS RUN OUT FROM EACH SHIP.

95. EXT. ASSAULT SHIP: RAMP.

A PLATOON OF AROUND TWENTY CUSTODIANS RUN DOWN THE RAMP AND ASSEMBLE. IN B/G, RANKS OF CUSTODIANS ASSEMBLE FROM OTHER SHIPS.

FELL COMES DOWN THE RAMP, THE DOCTOR AND NOMAR BEHIND HIM. ALL IN SURVIVAL SUITS.

FELL:

(HELMET DISTORT) Helmet communicators on at all times! Advance in formation! Eyes about! Kill any Star Men you see!

THE CUSTODIANS RAISE GUNS AND BEGIN A WALKING ADVANCE.

FELL:

(D) Doctor, if you refuse to carry a weapon I can't spare anyone to protect you.

DOCTOR:

(D) I don't need a weapon. Or protection. I'm here to look for Tegan.

FELL:

(D) We'll find her. Now — I must join my troops. I'll call you forward when we've taken the Citadel. (TO NOMAR) You stay here too, alien.

NOMAR:

(D) Yes, General Fell.

FELL RUNS TOWARDS THE ADVANCING CUSTODIANS.

DOCTOR:

(D) Nomar. My friend needs me. Is there a way to the Citadel that keeps us above the fray?

NOMAR:

(D) There is an approach to the East. Follow me.

DOCTOR:

(D) Thank you.

NOMAR LEADS THE DOCTOR AWAY.

96. INT. CONTROL SUITE.

NYSSA:

If whoever is behind all this can control the coral and the gas, to the extent they can target one room like the power room, they could threaten anywhere at any time.

KALA:

We need to come up with something quickly. I don't know what that membrane thing is that they've built in the corridor, but I very much doubt it's just for decoration.

SHE ACTIVATES A SCREEN.

KALA:

Renn and the others are still standing there watching it. Like they're waiting.

NYSSA:

If they're waiting, I don't think we should.

KALA:

Sorry?

NYSSA:

Shall we go back into the Science Hub and take a look at it for ourselves?

97. INT. CITADEL CHAMBER.

VEDRIN ENTERS, APPROACHES ROVUS.

ROVUS:

Yes, Vedrin?

VEDRIN:

The humans have landed and deployed for attack.

ROVUS:

How naïve of them.

HE STRIDES TOWARDS THE EXIT.

ROVUS:

We must welcome our visitors...

THEY EXIT.

98. EXT. PLANETOID: RIDGE.

DOCTOR AND NOMAR REACH HIGH RIDGE ABOVE THE PLAIN. HIGH WINDS.

DOCTOR:

(HELMET DISTORT) We're certainly above the fray here, Nomar. With a grandstand view of General Fell's advance.

NOMAR:

(D) Over here, Doctor. See the fate of my people.

THE DOCTOR AND NOMAR WALK A SHORT DISTANCE. MUTED THROUGH THE WINDS, SOUNDS OF MANY SLAVES DIGGING IN A QUARRY BELOW.

DOCTOR:

(D) Good grief. There must be thousands of slaves in that quarry.

NOMAR:

(D) They will be worked until they die.

DOCTOR:

(D) What are they digging for?

NOMAR:

(D) A mineral called solonium [so-LOW-nium]. It's only found in the nebula.

DOCTOR:

(D) Solonium is a ferrous mineral saturated with x-rays. Yes, they'd need a planet like this, close to a star, for that. What do they do with it?

NOMAR:

(D) They feed on it.

DOCTOR:

(D) Literally?

NOMAR:

(D) They absorb it. It sustains them.

DOCTOR:

(D) Now that's very interesting..

BEHIND THE WIND, A DISTANT HISS AND SHIMMERING OF THE MOVEMENT OF ENERGISED RED GAS.

NOMAR:

(D) Doctor!

DOCTOR:

(D) Oh no. The 'red cloud' again...

THE DOCTOR ACTIVATES HIS HELMET COMMS.

DOCTOR:

(D) General Fell, can you hear me?!

FELL:

(D - HELMET COMMS) Doctor? Where are you?

DOCTOR:

(D) On a hillside above you. Can you see the base of the Citadel?

FELL:

(D - HELMET COMMS) There's a ridge in the way. But we'll reach it shortly.

DOCTOR:

(D) Get your people out of there! There's red gas coming your way. It's pouring from the Citadel! The red cloud, remember?! It killed everyone on the *Kepler*, and now it's coming for you!

FELL:

(D - HELMET COMMS) I don't see any... Wait. Yes. I see it!

DOCTOR:

(D) Run!!

CROSS TO:

99. EXT. PLANETOID: PLAIN. [CONTINUOUS]

ABOVE THE WIND WE HEAR THE ENERGISED HISS OF A LARGE MASS OF RED GAS, RUSHING TOWARDS US FROM DISTANCE.

FELL:

(HELMET DISTORT) (AFRAID) Doctor... I think it's too late.

DOCTOR:

(D - HELMET COMMS) Try to get back to the ships!

FELL:

(D) No time. Sorry, Doctor... Good luck.

DOCTOR:

(D - HELMET COMMS) General!

THE HISS OF THE RED CLOUD APPROACHES AT SPEED AND OVERWHELMS FELL AND HIS 200+ CUSTODIANS.

FELL:

(D) Aaagh!

MANY CUSTODIANS:

(HELMET DISTORT) Aaaaagh!

CROSS TO:

100. EXT. PLANETOID: RIDGE. [CONTINUOUS]

NOMAR:

(D) The cloud has swallowed them.

DOCTOR:

(D) Over two hundred men and women...

NOMAR:

(D) Do you wish to leave, Doctor?

DOCTOR:

(D) (ANGRY) I want more than ever to get my friend away from here. Your people too, Nomar. Now — about that alternative route to the Citadel...

101. INT. CORRIDOR: BULKHEAD.

TWO CUSTODIANS STAND TO ATTENTION AS KALA AND NYSSA APPROACH.

KALA:

Stand easy, Custodians.

THE CUSTODIANS RELAX.

KALA:

This is bulkhead six. The Science Hub is behind it.

NYSSA:

Then let's go.

KALA:

Are you sure about this, Nyssa? It's a big risk.

NYSSA:

I need to get a look at that thing in the corridor. I'm quite prepared to go alone, Controller.

KALA:

As if I'd let you do that. Custodian – open the bulkhead.

CUSTODIAN OPERATES A KEYPAD. THE HEAVY BULKHEAD OPENS.

KALA:

Two of you come with us. The rest stay here. But be alert.

THEY ENTER.

102. INT. CITADEL SIDE CHAMBER.

EMPTY, MARBLE-WALLED PLACE. THE DOCTOR AND NOMAR ENTER FROM A PASSAGE.

DOCTOR:

(D) So far, so good.

A CLICK & A HISS AS THE DOCTOR REMOVES HIS HELMET.

(INHALES) The air seems good. This is really rather brave of you, Nomar.

NOMAR:

(D) Anything... (A CLICK & HISS AS HE REMOVES HIS HELMET) ...to strike back at these monsters.

DOCTOR:

Which way?

NOMAR:

The main chamber is through - [here]

AN ENERGY BOLT, FIRED BY A STAR MAN, SHOOTS FROM A PASSAGE AHEAD AND STRIKES THE FLOOR.

NOMAR:

Star Men!

ROVUS ENTERS FROM ONE PASSAGE. FOUR OTHER STAR MEN FROM OTHERS ALL AROUND THE DOCTOR & NOMAR.

We're surrounded!

ROVUS:

That was a warning shot only.

DOCTOR:

Hello again. We met before, I believe. You're the one who took Tegan!

NOMAR:

Doctor... this is Rovus. Emperor of the Keltin. Leader of the Star Men.

ROVUS:

Welcome back, Nomar... I've missed you.

103. INT. CORRIDOR INTERSECTION.

THE HUM OF THE PORTAL HEARD DULLY NEARBY AS NYSSA, KALA AND TWO CUSTODIANS APPROACH.

KALA:

(SOTTO) Corridor 4M is the next left.

NYSSA:

(SOTTO) I'll go forward and have a look round the corner.

KALA:

(SOTTO) Be careful. Don't let them see you.

FOLLOW NYSSA AS SHE MOVES FORWARD. HUM OF THE PORTAL GROWING STRONGER AS SHE NEARS IT, AND HAS A SURREPTITIOUS LOOK AROUND THE CORNER.

SHE RETURNS TO KALA.

NYSSA:

(SOTTO) They're standing over that membrane, like they're on guard.

KALA:

(SOTTO) Have you got any idea what it is?

NYSSA:

(SOTTO) Not much. It seems to be organic technology. It has power, too, to judge by the way it's glowing.

KALA:

(SOTTO) Whatever it's for, it can't be good. Time to go on the offensive. Custodians. Stand by.

2 x CUSTODIANS RAISE THEIR GUNS.

KALA:

(SOTTO) When I give the word, move forward and open fire. Destroy that thing. Then run.

104. INT. CITADEL CHAMBER.

THE DOCTOR AND NOMAR ARE BROUGHT IN BY ROVUS.

ROVUS:

And here she is. Your friend.

TEGAN:

Doctor! Am I glad to see you!

DOCTOR:

Tegan! Are you well?

TEGAN:

Well enough. Scared out of my wits, mind.

NOMAR:

Rovus has that effect.

ROVUS:

Found some nerve, have you, Nomar? You were such an obedient, respectful servant once. I hope the humans behave better.

DOCTOR:

I'm not human.

ROVUS:

I have no interest in what you are.

DOCTOR:

I'm the Doctor. A Time Lord?

ROVUS:

And what is a "Time Lord"?

DOCTOR:

It's the job of my people to stop interference with the time lines. Interference like yours.

ROVUS:

I change my mind. I think you do interest me.

DOCTOR:

You don't belong in this time and place. Where have you come from?

ROVUS:

Another... place. It's of little consequence.

DOCTOR:

Of as little consequence as the lives you ended out there, in that slaughter?

ROVUS:

They came as aggressors and met their just end.

ROVUS OPERATES CONTROLS WITH A SHIMMERING WAVE OF HIS ARM.
MELODIC RESPONSES. AN IMAGE MATERIALISES IN THE AIR.

ROVUS:

As will these others, in their ship in orbit.

TEGAN:

That's the *Carl Sagan*. But what's that?

DOCTOR:

The red cloud. It's what destroyed the *Kepler*, Tegan.

ROVUS:

They have tried valiantly – but in vain – to evade the cloud.

DOCTOR:

Rovus, stop this. Now. Please.

ROVUS:

We do not allow such aggressors to live.

HE WAVES HIS ARM. CONTROLS RESPOND.

ROVUS:

See? The red cloud envelops the ship. Penetrating it.
Smothering the crew. Crippling the ship's systems...

HEARD FAINTLY FROM THE IMAGE, EXPLOSIONS BREAK OUT ACROSS THE
CARL SAGAN.

ROVUS:

I wanted the first ship intact, to return to the humans, to
destroy them... But this vessel, I do not require.

DOCTOR:

No!

FURTHER DEVASTATING EXPLOSIONS – THE *CARL SAGAN* DESTROYED

ROVUS:

How quickly it succumbs to the cloud.

TEGAN:

All those people!

HE DEACTIVATES THE IMAGE.

DOCTOR:

That was unnecessary!

ROVUS:

We must agree to differ. Now... Nomar. What am I to do with you?

NOMAR:

Do your worst.

ROVUS:

My worst... Yes. I may well "do my worst". Vedrin!

VEDRIN ENTERS FROM AN ADJACENT CHAMBER.

VEDRIN:

Yes, Emperor?

ROVUS:

Send Nomar to the Dark.

VEDRIN:

Immediately.

NOMAR:

Rovus, no!

DOCTOR:

What is the Dark?

ROVUS:

Take the woman away, also.

TEGAN:

No chance!

DOCTOR:

Tegan stays with me!

ROVUS:

You are one more outburst away from death, Doctor. This 'Tegan' will not be harmed, so long as you comply.

DOCTOR:

If any harm comes to her – to either of them..

ROVUS:

You do not dictate terms. But... Vedrin, take them away, and nothing else. Until you hear from me.

VEDRIN:

Understood.

TEGAN:

Doctor? You don't expect me just to go along with this?

DOCTOR:

We have to take Rovus at his word, Tegan.

ROVUS:

Indeed. Vedrin, go.

TEGAN:

(TO DOCTOR) Well, I hope you know what you're letting me in for.

VEDRIN, TEGAN AND NOMAR EXIT.

DOCTOR:

So. Rovus. Imperator of the Keltin, the 'Star Men'...

ROVUS:

(AMUSED) Our race is Keltin. The 'Star Men'... it is a name others say. Quietly. With fear.

DOCTOR:

Keltin or Star Men, your species is virtually impossible. You have the outline of a person, but no face, not what I'd normally call a body.

ROVUS:

Perhaps you need to reconsider what is possible. Allow your mind to expand, to imagine another ...

DOCTOR:

... another reality? Another universe?

ROVUS:

Well done.

DOCTOR:

I knew you couldn't be from this galaxy. But you're not even from this universe. You're from somewhere where the rules of physics are quite different.

ROVUS:

Are all Time Lords as astute as you?

DOCTOR:

I've travelled. Widely.

ROVUS:

You are quite right. We are new to this universe.

DOCTOR:

But by coming here you've insinuated yourselves into this reality's time stream. You're altering human history when they're on the verge of expanding across the cosmos.

ROVUS:

How can you know that?

DOCTOR:

As I said. I'm a Time Lord.

ROVUS:

I did well to keep you alive. Your knowledge will be very useful.

DOCTOR:

I'm not here to give you my knowledge. I'm here to stop you doing further damage.

ROVUS:

You cannot stop us! And I will have all the information from you I desire. Even if I have to force it from you.

105. INT. PASSAGEWAY.

A LONG HIGH-CEILINGED CORRIDOR. TEGAN, NOMAR AND VEDRIN WALK ALONG.

TEGAN:

Oi, Vedrin. That's your name, isn't it? Where are you taking us?

VEDRIN:

Be silent.

TEGAN:

What's Rovus up to? Why pick a fight with everyone?

NOMAR:

The Star Men won't tolerate other advanced civilisations.

VEDRIN:

Quiet, Nomar.

NOMAR:

They believe in their absolute superiority. Their right to rule over all.

VEDRIN:

Be silent.

NOMAR:

They conquer to obtain the energy they need.

VEDRIN:

(ANGRY) Enough! (LASHES OUT)

BUT NOMAR INTENDED THIS.

NOMAR:

(DUCKING THE BLOW) Run, Tegan! (WRESTLES WITH VEDRIN, RESTRAINING HIM) I'll hold him... as long as I can!

TEGAN:

Nomar!

NOMAR:

(STRUGGLING) Go!

TEGAN:

(RUNNING) Catch me up!

TEGAN RUNS OFF.

VEDRIN'S SHIMMERING PRESENCE FLUCTUATES AS HE STRUGGLES.

VEDRIN:

(STRUGGLING) I am too strong for you! You cannot hold me!

NOMAR:

(LOSING THE STRUGGLE) You may be right! But I'm.. faster! (ON 'FASTER', HE PUSHES VEDRIN AWAY AND RUNS)

VEDRIN:

(SHOVED ASIDE) Gah! Stop. Stop...!

VEDRIN FIRES AN ENERGY BOLT THAT HITS THE WALL.

106. INT. PORTAL CHAMBER.

A PORTAL STANDS IN THE MIDDLE OF THE ROOM. IT RESONATES WITH A LOWER, MORE OMINOUS RESONANCE THAN BEFORE.

TEGAN RUNS IN.

TEGAN:

(RECOVERING FROM RUNNING) Oh great. A dead end.

NOMAR RUNS IN.

NOMAR:

(RECOVERING) Vedrin is right behind us!

TEGAN:

There's nowhere to run. Except for the portal.

NOMAR:

It's been re-set. That portal leads to the Dark!

TEGAN:

What's the Dark?

NOMAR:

It's the Star Men's worst punishment.

TEGAN:

But if it's a portal, it'll take us away from here, yes?

NOMAR:

No-one ever returns.

TEGAN:

Maybe because they don't want to!

OFF, VEDRIN APPROACHES AT A RUN.

VEDRIN:

(OFF) Nomar...!

TEGAN:

He's almost here! We've no choice! Come on! (SHE RUNS AND LEAPS)

NOMAR:

No, don't!

AS TEGAN HITS THE PORTAL THERE IS AN OMINOUS RESONANCE. THEN SHE'S GONE.

VEDRIN:

(ARRIVING) There you are! Where's the woman...?

NOMAR:

(TO SELF) Tegan. I will not let you go alone into the Dark.

(RUNS)

NOMAR RUNS, LEAPS. AGAIN THE RESONANT SOUND, BUT NOW WE GO WITH HIM, PASSING THROUGH INTO —

107. EXT. HELIOPAN: PLAIN. [CONTINUOUS]

THE PLANET HELIOPAN, IN THE STAR MEN'S REALITY. A TRULY ALIEN ENVIRONMENT. HOWLING, MOANING WIND. THE GROUND SHIFTS SHALE-LIKE BENEATH OUR FEET. OCCASIONAL THUNDER CRACKS.

NOMAR COMPLETES HIS LEAP AND LANDS ON THE SHIFTING GROUND.

NOMAR:

(LANDING) Oof!

TEGAN:

(NEARBY) Nomar!

DIALOGUE PROJECTED ABOVE THE AMBIENT SOUNDSCAPE.

NOMAR:

Tegan?

TEGAN:

What is this place?! I can't... I can't focus on it!

NOMAR:

Nor I!

TEGAN:

(UNSTEADY) The ground is moving.

NOMAR:

I think... I think this is their home. The Star Men. This is where they came from.

A CREATURE'S CALL, IN DISTANCE — SHRIEKING, ULULATING.

TEGAN:

What was that?

IT SHRIEKS AGAIN.

TEGAN:

On second thoughts — I don't want to know.

108. INT. CITADEL CHAMBER.

DOCTOR:

I must say, your physiology is fascinating, Rovus. Very different from almost anything I've encountered.

ROVUS:

We are perfect beings. Free from the limitations of flesh and bone.

DOCTOR:

Oh, I don't know. Nothing's perfect. For one thing, you still need to feed... On solonium - mined by your Vileri slaves, I understand?

ROVUS:

(WARY) Nomar has informed you well. The solonium we need is mined, and brought to the Citadel. I will show you.

HE APPROACHES A WALL, WAVES A HAND AND A PANEL OPENS.

DOCTOR:

That's your larder, I take it?

ROVUS:

Abandon any hopes of defeating us by destroying it, Doctor. We keep stores of solonium throughout the Citadel.

DOCTOR:

It's very rare in this universe. It needs intense solar x-rays.

ROVUS:

The energy of suns. That is what we feed on. Watch.

ROVUS LIFTS A ROCK OF SOLONIUM. IT IS SUDDENLY ENERGISED.

ROVUS:

See how it reacts as I lift it? Solonium responds to our molecular coding. Now, it releases its stellar energy into me, through my hand.

HE IS SUFFUSED WITH TINGLING, EFFERVESCENT ENERGY.

ROVUS:

I feel the rush as it fills me and sustains me.

THE ROCK DRAINS OF ENERGY AND FALLS SILENT.

ROVUS:

When it is drained, the once-smooth rock becomes this jagged residue.

DOCTOR:

The red coral.

ROVUS:

Which continues to have its uses. The process of feeding also links us with the coral, as you call it. We can... manipulate it.

DOCTOR:

And use it to kill. You'd do anything to survive.

ROVUS:

To survive we need solonium. To harvest it, we need stars. We are not aggressors by choice, Doctor. Our reality, our universe, is dying. The last of its energy is being depleted.

DOCTOR:

Entropy? You've not heard of a place called E-Space, by any chance?

ROVUS:

Entropy?

DOCTOR:

Perhaps not.

ROVUS:

We used our last reserves of energy to open a route to this reality.

DOCTOR:

That would have needed a colossal amount of energy. On both sides of the transfer. The equivalent of... (REALISATION) several newborn stars! Of course, in the Tarantula Nebula! That's why you ripped a hole between your reality and here.

ROVUS:

Indeed.

DOCTOR:

Tell me, why are there so few of you?

ROVUS:

Others will follow.

DOCTOR:

You're just the advance party? But you've been here some months, according to Nomar. When will the others follow?

ROVUS:

In time.

DOCTOR:

There's something you're hiding.

ROVUS:

You overstep the mark, Time Lord.

VEDRIN RUNS IN.

VEDRIN:

Imperator?! It's Nomar. And the girl...

DOCTOR:

Tegan? What's happened?

VEDRIN:

They ran from me. They have gone into the Dark.

ROVUS:

(LAUGHS) Nomar has provided his own punishment!

DOCTOR:

What is the Dark?

ROVUS:

It is the link with our old reality, Doctor.

DOCTOR:

She's gone there? To your universe? Please, you must get her back!

ROVUS:

There is no return. She is gone forever.

109. EXT. HELIOPAN: PLAIN.

TEGAN:

I can see a little better now.

NOMAR:

Me too. Although what I see is a nightmare.

TEGAN:

It feels like my brain is adjusting, making sense of it. Those mountains look solid enough now, even if the colour of the sky is giving me a headache. (SUDDEN THOUGHT) Hey Nomar? ... We came through a portal.

NOMAR:

I know.

TEGAN:

So there should be another portal at this end, shouldn't there? For us to get back.

NOMAR:

I told you. No-one ever comes back.

TEGAN:

Then we're stuck here? For good?

NOMAR:

For as long as we live. Which won't be long, if we can't find food.

THE CREATURE SHRIEKS. NOW IN MID-DISTANCE.

TEGAN:

Starvation might not be the only way to die here.

A FIGURE SCRAMBLES TOWARDS THEM FROM UP THE SLOPE. LOM IS A REPTILIAN ALIEN AND SPEAKS WITH A HISSING RATTLE.

LOM:

(NEARBY) If you want to stay alive, come with me!

TEGAN:

A lizard man?!

CREATURE SHRIEKS AGAIN — CLOSE NOW.

LOM:

A friend, I believe. The Krail Beasts are hungry. I have seen many men run through on the point of their horns. But if you choose not to be their meal — I have a shelter nearby.

TEGAN:

Fair enough. — We're coming!

NOMAR AND TEGAN RUN UP THE SLOPE.

110. INT. CITADEL CHAMBER.

DOCTOR:

There must be some way to get Tegan and Nomar back!

ROVUS:

We tried to establish a portal link with our universe. It was not possible except for a one-way connection. The portal can travel to our universe; it cannot connect to this one.

DOCTOR:

Take me to this portal.

ROVUS:

So you can throw yourself through it as they did? No, Doctor. You are invaluable to me.

DOCTOR:

In what way?

ROVUS:

Until recently, all we knew of this universe was this one small galaxy. Now we learn there is another, ten times the size.

DOCTOR:

The Milky Way.

ROVUS:

It is teeming with life. With over one hundred billion stars.

DOCTOR:

Got your eye on it, have you?

ROVUS:

There are countless other galaxies, too. Ones you have knowledge of, yes?

DOCTOR:

You should learn about them the way I did. By travelling. It broadens the mind, you know.

ROVUS:

Oh, we intend to travel. And very soon. When the Keltin Core is in this universe, all life forms will tremble.

DOCTOR:

The Keltin Core? What's that?

ROVUS:

(HE'S SAID TOO MUCH) In time, Doctor... In time, you will know. And then you will - [STOPS HIMSELF]

DOCTOR:

Everything alright, Rovus? You seem distracted.

ROVUS:

I see through the eyes of the integrated. I see Gallius Ultima. Through the eyes of "Ensign Renn". Your friends are about to do something... very foolish.

111. INT. CORRIDOR 4M.

PORTAL HUMS, OFF. AT THE END OF THE CORRIDOR, KALA, NYSSA AND THE TWO CUSTODIANS MOVE CLOSER.

KALA:

(SOTTO) Quiet. On my command...

ROVUS (POSSESSING RENN):

(OFF) In the shadows, at the end of the corridor. Someone is there!

CADAVERS LURCH FORWARD FROM OFF.

NYSSA:

(SOTTO) They've seen us!

KALA:

The corpses, they're coming for us! – Fire!

2 x CUSTODIANS OPEN FIRE. THEY ONLY GET A FEW SHOTS OFF BEFORE THE CADAVERS FALL ON THEM.

CADAVERS:

(DISEMBODIED ATTACK CRY) Haaah!! (LASH OUT)

CUSTODIANS:

(CRY OUT AS THEY ARE KILLED) Aaaah!

NYSSA:

Kala – run!

NYSSA AND KALA RUN FOR THEIR LIVES.

112. INT. CITADEL CHAMBER.

ROVUS:

The issue has been... dealt with.

DOCTOR:

What have you done?

ROVUS:

(IGNORING HIM) Vedrin, we will bring our plans forward. You will go to the human base. Take control.

VEDRIN:

Yes, Rovus.

DOCTOR:

You won't win.

ROVUS:

We have crushed their army, and we now know everything there is to know about this Gallius Ultima. Humanity cannot prevail against us.

113. INT. BULKHEAD.

NYSSA AND KALA RUN IN. KALA PRESSES KEYPAD. BULKHEAD CLOSES.

KALA:

(RECOVERING) Sealed! They killed the Custodians!

NYSSA:

(RECOVERING) They haven't followed us. I daresay they didn't want to leave that membrane they're guarding.

KALA PRESSES WALL CONTROLS.

KALA:

We can get the camera feed direct to this terminal.

SMALL WALL SCREEN POWERS UP.

NYSSA:

Yes, they're still there. Like nothing happened.

KALA:

With my men dead at their feet.

THROUGH SCANNER, WE HEAR AN ENERGY BUILDUP FROM THE PORTAL.

NYSSA:

Something's happening to the membrane.

114. INT. RECOVERY ROOM.

ADRIC STIRS, REVIVES.

ADRIC:

(WAKING) Three hundred and seventy – (AWAKE, ALERT) That voice!
(SITS BOLT UPRIGHT)

AUTUMN:

Adric, it's alright. You're safe.

ADRIC:

Autumn? Thank goodness! I thought I was still... Where am I?

AUTUMN:

In a recovery room. You were unconscious.

ADRIC:

When I was attacked, I heard a voice... in my head. It told me I was going to die. It was like the Star Man was inside my mind.

AUTUMN:

'Star Man'...?

ADRIC:

Yes, that's what they're called. It's not their real name, though— (STOPS HIMSELF) Wait. How did I know that?

AUTUMN:

I was about to ask you.

ADRIC:

It's coming back to me! We were linked! When he was getting into my head, I got into his! I know what they're planning!

AUTUMN:

What?

ADRIC:

His thoughts were strange. Images rather than words. But I saw these Star Men. This base was destroyed! And the Star Men... spreading everywhere, to other worlds. Killing. And they're going to start here. The Star Men are coming. Lots of them!

115. INT. CORRIDOR 4M.

PORTAL REVERBERATES WITH ENERGY. VEDRIN EMERGES.

VEDRIN:

Hear me, Rovus. I have arrived on Gallius Ultima.

ROVUS (POSSESSING RENN):

Good, Vedrin. More of our people are coming?

VEDRIN:

Many more.

12 x STAR MEN EMERGE FROM THE PORTAL THROUGH:

ROVUS (POSSESSING RENN):

Go. Take control of this place. Kill all who resist... These cadavers are no longer needed. I shall jettison this integrated known as Renn.

RENN AND THE OTHER CADAVERS COLLAPSE TO THE FLOOR.

VEDRIN:

Forward, my Star Men!

VEDRIN AND A DOZEN STAR MEN WALK UP CORRIDOR.

116. INT. BULKHEAD.

KALA:

What are those things?!

NYSSA:

Aliens. The ones who've been behind this all along.

KALA HITS ALARM. KLAXON SOUNDS.

KALA:

(INTO MIC, REVERBERATING FROM NEARBY SPEAKERS) This is the Controller! Emergency! Threat Level One! Repeat: Threat Level One! The base is being invaded! Custodians stand ready! Custodians stand - [ready]

THE BULKHEAD IS HIT BY AN ENERGY BLAST FROM THE FAR SIDE.

NYSSA:

They're at the bulkhead!

MORE ENERGY BLASTS. BULKHEAD MELTS, COLLAPSES.

NYSSA:

It's giving way! Kala! Run!

KALA AND NYSSA RUN OFF. VEDRIN AND HIS STAR MEN ENTER THROUGH BULKHEAD REMAINS.

VEDRIN:

Go. Move through all sections. Kill all who resist.

STAR MEN MOVE IN ALL DIRECTIONS.

117. INT. LOM'S CAVE.

GRAVEL FLOOR, ROCK WALLS. MOANING ATMOSPHERE OF HELIOPAN IS MUTED.

LOM:

You're safe here. The Krail won't come into the caves.

TEGAN:

Thank you for bringing us here. I'm Tegan, by the way.

NOMAR:

Nomar.

LOM:

I am Lom. You are welcome.

TEGAN:

Do you live here?

LOM:

As best I can. I am the last of my kind. The others... are dead. This world and everything beyond it is dying.

TEGAN:

What is this world?

LOM:

You are on the planet Heliopan [HE-lee-oh-pan]. Sent here by the Star Men, no doubt. It is my home. It breaks my heart to see it now.

NOMAR:

What happened?

LOM:

The Star Men killed it. Bled it dry. As they have bled this universe dry in search of the energy they need.

TEGAN:

They did that?

LOM:

Look outside and you will see what they did. They are world killers.

118. INT. ARRIVALS HUB.

SOUNDS OF BATTLE IN THE BACKGROUND. STAR MEN FIRING ENERGY ROUNDS, INTERSPERSED WITH CUSTODIAN GUNFIRE AND EXPLOSIONS.

CUSTODIANS:

(OFF) (DEATH SCREAMS)

NYSSA AND KALA RUN IN.

NYSSA:

Quickly, Controller. The TARDIS!

KALA:

What is that?

NYSSA:

Safety!

SHE TRIES THE DOORS — SHUT.

NYSSA:

Only it's locked!

VEDRIN AND TWO STAR MEN RUN IN. VEDRIN FIRES AN ENERGY SHOT THAT EXPLODES IN THE FLOOR.

NYSSA AND KALA:

(SURPRISED) Aah!

VEDRIN:

Stand still or die. (APPROACHING) What is this?

NYSSA:

Nothing. Just... a box.

VEDRIN SHOVES AT TARDIS DOORS.

VEDRIN:

Open it.

NYSSA:

I can't!

VEDRIN:

It has power... It is a ship of some kind.

KALA:

Really? This is a ship?

VEDRIN:

I have it... You are with the Doctor.

NYSSA:

The Doctor? Never heard of him.

VEDRIN:

You lie. (TO STAR MEN) Star Men – we need another portal, here.
Fashion one.

119. INT. CITADEL DETENTION CHAMBER.

DOCTOR:
(WHISTLES TUNELESSLY)

DOOR OPENS. ROVUS ENTERS.

DOCTOR:
Ah, Rovus! I was beginning to think you'd forgotten about me.

ROVUS:
Come with me, Doctor.

DOCTOR STANDS.

DOCTOR:
Are we going anywhere nice?

ROVUS:
You will see.

120. INT. ARRIVALS HUB.

A PORTAL IS HUMMING WITH POWER.

NYSSA:

(SOTTO) So now we know. The membranes are portals. That's how these 'Star Men' got here.

KALA:

(SOTTO) More to the point – if they can place more of them anywhere they like, we'll be completely overrun.

VEDRIN:

Silence. The Emperor is coming.

ENERGY BUILDS WITHIN THE PORTAL. AS IT PEAKS, ROVUS EMERGES WITH THE DOCTOR.

NYSSA:

DOCTOR!

DOCTOR:

Nyssa. Hello!

ROVUS:

(GOING TO TARDIS) Vedrin, this box – is this the vessel you spoke of?

VEDRIN:

It resists all attempts to force entry. Its energy signature suggests temporal capability, and that it is in dimensional flux.

ROVUS:

A vessel fit for a Time Lord. – Eh, Doctor?

DOCTOR

That blue box has nothing to do with me, Rovus.

ROVUS:

Don't try to fool me, Doctor. Open your time machine. Now!

DOCTOR:

No, sorry. You're doing enough damage to the timeline as it is.

ROVUS:

Vedrin.

VEDRIN GRABS HOLD OF NYSSA.

NYSSA:

(PAINED CRY)

DOCTOR:

Let Nyssa go!

ROVUS:

Doctor, you have already lost one of your friends to the Dark... Do you wish to lose another?

A WAVE OF HIS ARM, AND THE PORTAL ADOPTS THE OMINOUS RUMBLE OF A DARK PORTAL.

NYSSA:

Doctor, does he mean Tegan? What's happened to her?

DOCTOR:

Try not to worry. We'll get her back.

NYSSA:

Back from where?

ROVUS:

This portal is now reset to the Dark. You will open your machine.

DOCTOR:

I can't give you access to my TARDIS.

ROVUS:

Vedrin – throw her in.

NYSSA:

(STRUGGLES AS SHE'S LED) No!

DOCTOR:

Please! Don't do this!

VEDRIN THROWS NYSSA INTO THE PORTAL.

NYSSA:

(CRIES OUT, THE CRY STIFLED BY THE PORTAL) No! Doctor...!

DEEP RESONANCE AS NYSSA DISAPPEARS INTO THE PORTAL.

DOCTOR:

Nyssa!

ROVUS:

I don't bluff, Doctor. She's gone.

121. EXT. HELIOPAN.

NYSSA SCRAMBLES ON THE SHALE-LIKE SURFACE.

NYSSA:

Hello? ... Hello, is anyone h- [ere?!] (LOSES HER BALANCE, SLIDES DOWN THE SLOPE) Waah!

SHE PICKS HERSELF UP.

NYSSA:

Evidently not. Where am I, I wonder...?

A KRAIL LOPES IN, STOPS NEARBY, AND SHRIEKS.

NYSSA:

Oh no. I hope you're not as hungry as you look...

TWO FURTHER KRAIL APPEAR. SNARLING, SNORTING.

NYSSA:

More of them. - Get back! Get back, please...!!!

ALL THREE KRAIL GIVE A FEARSOME, BLOOD-CURDLING SHRIEK.

END OF PART THREE

PART FOUR

NO REPRISE

122. INT. ARRIVALS HUB.

THE PORTAL CHANGES TONE. EASING, NO LONGER THE DARK PORTAL.

ROVUS:

Do not imagine that you will see either of your friends again, Doctor. Now open your machine!!

DOCTOR:

More than ever, Rovus. No.

BEAT.

ROVUS:

You are fortunate I need you alive. You will give us access to your machine, Doctor. However many more lives it takes. But first we must secure our grip on this base.

DOCTOR:

In which case: might I suggest that Controller Tace here is allowed to speak to her people?

ROVUS:

For what purpose?

DOCTOR:

To tell them to surrender.

KALA:

Doctor!

DOCTOR:

Kala, you can't hold out against the Star Men. Trust me.

BEAT.

KALA:

If it will save lives... yes.

ROVUS:

Excellent.

KALA:

We'll need to go to the control suite.

ROVUS:

Vedrin, bring the Doctor.

KALA:

(SOTTO) I don't know whether to thank you or curse you.

DOCTOR:

(SOTTO) It buys us some time. Enough, I hope, to save your people... and my friends.

THEY EXIT.

123. INT. LOM'S CAVE.

LOM:

Heliopan was once a beautiful world, under the heat of three suns.

TEGAN:

Three? What happened to the other two?

LOM:

Reduced to husks by the Keltin.

NOMAR:

Then they would do the same in our universe?

TEGAN:

We have to – [get back]

NYSSA:

(OFF) Help! Help!!!

LOM:

Who was that?

TEGAN:

It sounded like... Is that Nyssa?!

TEGAN RUNS OUT.

124. EXT. HELIOPAN: SLOPE.

THREE KRAIL CLOSING ON NYSSA, SNARLING.

NYSSA:

Keep back! (PICKS UP A SMALL ROCK) I know how to throw, I've seen the Doctor do it often enough – (THROWS IT)

A KRAIL, HIT, SHRIEKS IN PAIN. RETREATS.

NYSSA:

How's that?! (PICKS UP ANOTHER)

2 x KRAIL SNARL DEFIANTLY, EDGE CLOSER.

TEGAN:

(NEARBY) Nyssa!

NYSSA:

Tegan! The Doctor said you'd been sent here – (EFFORT; THROWS ANOTHER STONE)

KRAIL SHRIEKS, HIT.

TEGAN:

You won't bowl those things out with stones! – Quick! Up here! There's a cave!

NYSSA:

Oh, thank goodness!

NYSSA SCRAMBLES UP THE SLOPE. THE KRAIL SHRIEK IN ANGER.

125. INT. LOM'S CAVE.

TEGAN ENTERS, FOLLOWED BY BREATHLESS NYSSA.

TEGAN:

Come on. You'll be safe in here. Lom says the Krail don't come into the caves.

LOM:

They fear the dark. Soon, they will tire and move away.

TEGAN:

Nyssa, this is Lom, and that's Nomar.

NOMAR:

Greetings.

TEGAN:

Nyssa's a friend of mine. We travel together.

NYSSA:

Tegan — where are we, exactly?

TEGAN:

This might take a while..

126. INT. CORRIDOR.

ADRIC AND AUTUMN RUNNING.

ADRIC:

It's hopeless running, Autumn! The Star Men are everywhere!

AUTUMN:

We have to find Mother. Tell her everything you learned about them!

KALA'S VOICE COMES OVER TANNOY.

KALA:

(D) All personnel, this is Controller Tace.

ADRIC AND AUTUMN STOP.

ADRIC:

That's her!

KALA:

(D) All resistance to the alien presence – to these 'Star Men' – will cease.

AUTUMN:

I don't believe it!

KALA:

(DISTORT) Regular personnel will go to their habitats. Custodians will put down their arms. The Star Men are now in command of Gallius U.

TRANSMISSION CLOSES.

AUTUMN:

That's it. We've lost!

ADRIC:

Your mother might have surrendered, but we don't have to!

AUTUMN:

What choice have we got?

ADRIC:

It's not a choice. I've seen what they're planning to do..

127. INT. CONTROL SUITE.

KALA:

Satisfied, Rovus?

ROVUS:

Very good, Controller.

DOCTOR:

It was the right thing to do, Kala.

KALA:

The question is: have I saved my people? Or just made it easier for the Star Men to slaughter them?

ROVUS:

Vedrin? Prepare the signal. To read, 'Compatibility confirmed. Bridgehead established.'

VEDRIN:

At once. (TURNS AND LEAVES)

DOCTOR:

'Bridgehead'? I don't like the sound of that.

128. INT. LOM'S CAVE.

LOM:

One by one, the galaxies throughout this universe have gone dark. Until now there is just this one corner of light.

NYSSA:

So with so few suns remaining here, the Star Men needed to look elsewhere for their...

TEGAN:

... 'food'?

LOM:

The Keltin – the Star Men – found a way to tear an opening between universes. Yours was not the first they visited. But it was the first that they found to be suitable. If Rovus's group has been there as long as you say, I think it is likely he will make a bridgehead there. Then the other Keltin will follow.

TEGAN:

Other Star Men?

LOM:

Legions, from across this universe. They wait with the Keltin Core.

NYSSA:

What's the Keltin Core?

LOM:

A planet-sized piece of pure solonium. The birthplace of the Keltin. The Core is the place where the first Star Men were fashioned. Forged from solonium, shaped into their current form.

NYSSA:

The physics of this world is very different from our own.

NOMAR:

This solonium. When the Star Men have absorbed its energy, it becomes red coral.

TEGAN:

So the Star Men, they're the red coral in another form?

LOM:

The highest form, possessed of great intellect – but in this they are merely agents of the Core. The Core is sentient. The Star Men are linked to it. The Core controls them, and gives them direction.

NYSSA:

If they depend on it, then the Core is their vulnerability.

LOM:

Without the Core, they would cease to function. But it is protected.

TEGAN:

I don't see how we could do much about it anyway. I mean look at us. Stuck in a hole.

NOMAR:

With no weapons and no ship.

NYSSA:

We don't even know where this Core is. Or the rift.

LOM:

The rift is here.

TEGAN:

What?!

LOM:

The rift, the door to your universe, is here. I can show you.

NOMAR:

(STANDING) Please! Yes.

LOM:

(STANDING) Come with me.

TEGAN:

What about those creatures? The Krail?

LOM:

They are stupid. But we shall be careful.

THEY FOLLOW LOM OUT.

129. INT. CONTROL SUITE.

KALA:

A bridgehead?

DOCTOR:

It seems that's the Star Men's way. An advance party secures territory, and a larger group follows. It's what they did by using the bodies of your dead to set up that first portal on this base. Preparing for their invasion.

KALA:

An invasion? Of Gallius U?

DOCTOR:

I expect their ambitions reach much further than this planet.

ROVUS:

Correct, Doctor.

KALA:

You and your people might have won this base without a fight, but don't expect humanity and the other races of this galaxy to be such a pushover.

DOCTOR:

He's going to have some help. More of his kind. Rovus and his Star Men are just the vanguard.

ROVUS:

And when this galaxy has been won we shall continue, to the next galaxy, and the next. This universe offers rich pickings. So many stars.

DOCTOR:

Others would stand in your way. The Daleks, for one.

ROVUS:

All will be swept aside. Now, Doctor... The matter of your time machine.

DOCTOR:

I wondered when we'd come back to that...

130. EXT. HELIOPAN: SLOPE.

LOM, TEGAN, NYSSA AND NOMAR ON A RISING TRACK.

NOMAR:

How much further to the rift, Lom?

LOM:

Not far. To the top of this rise.

TEGAN:

Nyssa. This rift – you think it might be our way back?

NYSSA:

I don't see how we can hope to escape this universe otherwise.

131. INT. CORRIDOR.

DOCTOR, ROVUS AND KALA WALKING.

ROVUS:

When we reach your time machine, Doctor, you will open it – or I will kill the Controller.

KALA:

Doctor...?

DOCTOR:

It won't come to that, Kala. I hope.

ADRIC APPEARS AT FAR END OF CORRIDOR.

ADRIC:

(OFF) Hey! Star Man!

DOCTOR:

Adric?!

KALA:

What's he doing down the other end of the corridor?

ROVUS:

Boy! Come here!

ROVUS RUNS AFTER ADRIC.

ADRIC:

(RUNNING) Bye!

DOCTOR:

(TO KALA) Taunting Rovus, it appears.

AUTUMN:

(OPPOSITE END OF CORRIDOR) Mother! Doctor! Here, quick!

KALA:

Autumn?!

FOLLOW DOCTOR AND KALA AS THEY RUN TO AUTUMN. MEANWHILE:

ROVUS:

(RUNNING) Boy! Stop! (STOPPING) Wait. What is this? (TURNS; SEES THE DOCTOR AND KALA RUNNING OFF) Doctor! Controller! Stay still! (BEGINS TO STOMP BACK)

DOCTOR:

Close the bulkhead, Autumn! Quickly!

AUTUMN TAPS A KEYPAD AND A BULKHEAD SLAMS INTO PLACE.

ROVUS:

(ROARS WITH FRUSTRATION...)

... AS BULKHEAD CLOSES, SEALING THE OTHERS OFF.

DOCTOR:

Well done!

AUTUMN:

Good teamwork, eh?

KALA:

That bulkhead won't stop Rovus for long.

THE BULKHEAD SHUDDERS WITH ENERGY FROM ROVUS'S ENERGY ASSAULT.

DOCTOR:

You're right. Run!

THEY RUN OFF. CROSS TO:

132. INT. CORRIDOR INTERSECTION.

DOCTOR, KALA AND AUTUMN RUN IN. ADRIC RUNS IN FROM ANOTHER DIRECTION.

DOCTOR:
Adric!

ADRIC:
Hello, Doctor!

DOCTOR:
That was hideously dangerous.

AUTUMN:
(NUDGING DOCTOR) But very courageous!

DOCTOR:
Well, yes, I suppose so –

ADRIC:
It worked, didn't it?

KALA:
We need to get out of sight.

DOCTOR:
More importantly, we need to get access to the base computer system.

AUTUMN:
The Astronomy Hub?

DOCTOR:
Lead on.

THEY RUN OFF.

133. INT. CORRIDOR.

VEDRIN WALKS ALONG. ROVUS STRIDES TOWARDS HIM.

ROVUS:

Vedrin! The Doctor and the Controller have escaped!

VEDRIN:

Escaped?!

ROVUS:

I'll tear this place apart to find them. Return to the nebula.
Be prepared to send the signal when I give the word.

VEDRIN:

Understood.

VEDRIN HURRIES AWAY.

134. INT. ASTRONOMY HUB.

DESERTED. THE DOCTOR, KALA, ADRIC AND AUTUMN HURRY IN.

AUTUMN:

Here we are. The Astronomy Hub.

DOCTOR:

Excellent!

ADRIC:

I take it you've got a plan?

DOCTOR:

You know me, Adric.

KALA:

Then what is it?

DOCTOR:

First things first. The orbital telescope was knocked out by the *Kepler*. Is there any other way to observe the Tarantula Nebula in detail?

AUTUMN:

How much detail?

DOCTOR:

Enough for a spectrographic and gravitational analysis.

AUTUMN:

Only the orbital telescope could do that. We're in the wrong aspect for the ground observatory to get that view.

DOCTOR:

Pity. In fact, disastrous.

AUTUMN:

Hang on. Are you after live data, or would historical do?

DOCTOR:

If historical is within the last few weeks.

AUTUMN:

We have a cached record of recent readings from the Nebula.

DOCTOR:

Perfect!

AUTUMN:

Here.

SHE TAPS A KEYBOARD. IMAGES AND DATA APPEAR ON A SCREEN.

AUTUMN:

This was four days ago.

DOCTOR:

Can you isolate star cluster R one-three-six?

AUTUMN TAPS KEYBOARD.

KALA:

What are you looking for?

DOCTOR:

Anomalies in mass, gravity, radiation, light wave emissions...
Adric?

ADRIC:

Yes?

DOCTOR:

Could you look at gravity and mass equations? See if you can spot anything unusual - anything that doesn't fit.

ADRIC:

Right!

ADRIC TAKES A SEAT, STARTS WORK AT ANOTHER KEYBOARD.

DOCTOR:

Autumn, if you could punch up the spectrographic and radiographic readings...

AUTUMN:

Sure.

KALA:

What's all this for, Doctor?

DOCTOR:

Rovus is expecting more of his people. They have to come through somewhere, but the portals they make are too small. My theory is that there's a tear in space - a rift in the Tarantula Nebula. The R one-three-six cluster is the most likely area.

ADRIC:

Doctor! I've got something!

DOCTOR:

Show me.

ADRIC:

Look - there's a gravitational dip somewhere around that supergiant, see?

DOCTOR:

Meaning something in that area of space is reducing the gravity from the supergiant.

KALA:

This rift of yours.

DOCTOR:

Very probably. An opening into the universe of the Star Men. That's where their invasion will come from!

AUTUMN:

But can it be closed?

DOCTOR:

Well, I have friends on the other side, and I'd like them back first. But possibly, perhaps with a very large explosion... Before that, however, we have to find out precisely where it is.

ADRIC:

Well, how do we do that?

DOCTOR:

We'd have to get access to one of the Star Men's portals. The one by the TARDIS won't be easy to get to.

KALA:

There's another portal in the Science Hub. We can check the camera network to see if they've left it unguarded.

DOCTOR:

In which case... Adric?

ADRIC:

Yes?

DOCTOR:

How would you like to put your space navigation training into practice?

135. EXT. HELIOPAN: SLOPE.

LOM, NOMAR, TEGAN AND NYSSA REACH A CREST. HEARD FAINTLY, FAR OFF, A BURNING SCAR IN THE SKY.

LOM:

There. You see it now.

NYSSA:

That's the rift?

TEGAN:

(CRESTFALLEN) It's in the sky...!

NYSSA:

In space. It's huge.

LOM:

Did you think it would be on the surface?

TEGAN:

I'd hoped it might be a way home. Like one of those portals.

NYSSA:

It might as well be on the other side of this universe.

136. INT. CORRIDOR 4M.

THE DOCTOR, KALA AND ADRIC — WHO'S WEARING A SURVIVAL SUIT WITHOUT THE HELMET — BESIDE THE HUMMING PORTAL.

DOCTOR:

Here's the portal. You know what to do, Adric?

ADRIC:

Through the portal, straight through three chambers, turn left and I'm outside the citadel.

DOCTOR:

You'll see assault ships in the valley. Use one of them to navigate to the R one-three-six cluster. When you get there, the onboard systems will guide you to the rift.

ADRIC:

Got it.

DOCTOR:

All I want you to do is find the exact location. Nothing else. No heroics. Come back with the co-ordinates.

ADRIC:

Doctor, if Tegan and Nyssa are through that rift..

DOCTOR:

No heroics! We'll get them back, but I don't want to lose you too. Understood?

ADRIC:

(RELUCTANT) Understood.

DOCTOR:

If I'm successful here, we'll have plenty of time to get Tegan and Nyssa.

ADRIC:

I'd better be off... (PUTS ON AND LOCKS HIS HELMET) (D) Good luck.

DOCTOR:

And you.

ADRIC:

(HELMET DISTORT) Bye!

HE LEAPS THROUGH THE PORTAL AND IS GONE.

KALA:

Now what's this plan you've got in mind?

DOCTOR:

First, I'll take a sample of - [coral]

AUTUMN RUNS IN WEARING A SURVIVAL SUIT.

AUTUMN:

Has Adric gone?

KALA:

Autumn, what are you doing in that suit?

AUTUMN:

(PUTS ON HELMET) I'm going with Adric!

KALA:

You are not!

AUTUMN:

(HELMET DISTORT) Sorry, Mother! I have to! See you soon!

DOCTOR:

Autumn! No!

AUTUMN LEAPS THROUGH. CROSS TO:

137. INT. CITADEL CHAMBER. [CONTINUOUS]

AUTUMN LEAPS IN THROUGH THE PORTAL.

AUTUMN:

(D) (LANDING EFFORT)

ADRIC:

(D) Autumn?? You shouldn't be here!

AUTUMN:

(D) I couldn't leave you. On your own, I mean. Shall we go?

ADRIC:

(D) (RESIGNED) We've got to be quick. Follow me!

THEY RUN OUT. CROSS TO:

138. EXT. CITADEL.

STELLAR WINDS BLOWING A GALE AS ADRIC AND AUTUMN EMERGE ONTO THE PLAIN.

ADRIC:

(D) There are the ships.

AUTUMN:

(D) Third one from the left is General Fell's. Race you!

AN ENERGY BLAST RIPS UP THE GROUND NEXT TO THEM.

ADRIC and AUTUMN:

(D) (STARTLED) Aah!!

VEDRIN:

(OFF) Stop there!

ADRIC:

(D) We've been spotted! Run!

FURTHER ENERGY SHOTS HIT THE GROUND AS THEY RACE OFF.

VEDRIN CHASES THEM, STILL SHOOTING.

139. INT. CORRIDOR 4M.

PORTAL HUMMING AS THE DOCTOR CHIPS AT A PIECE OF RED CORAL.

KALA:

What are you doing with the coral?

DOCTOR:

Collecting a piece of it.

KALA:

It's dangerous.

DOCTOR:

As the Star Men will discover, so am I.

HE PULLS A CHUNK OF CORAL FREE.

DOCTOR:

Let's get this to the Astronomy Hub.

THEY HURRY OFF.

140. EXT. PLANETOID: PLAIN.

ADRIC AND AUTUMN RUNNING IN SURVIVAL SUITS. ENERGY BLASTS ERUPT AROUND THEM.

ADRIC:

(D) Inside the ship! Quickly!

THEY RUN UP THE RAMP OF FELL'S ASSAULT SHIP.

AUTUMN:

(D) We made it!

RAMP CLOSES. CROSS TO:

141. INT. ASSAULT SHIP: COCKPIT. [CONTINUOUS]

ADRIC AND AUTUMN RUN IN, REMOVING HELMETS. INTO FLIGHT SEATS.

ADRIC:

We need to get away from here, fast!

ADRIC WORKS CONTROLS. ENGINES POWER ON.

AUTUMN:

You're sure you can fly this?

ADRIC:

I understand all the principles.

AUTUMN:

That's a "no", then.

ADRIC:

Hold on tight. (WRENCHES BACK ON FLIGHT YOKE)

THE CRAFT SHUDDERS WITH POWER AS IT LIFTS. CROSS TO:

142. EXT. PLANETOID: PLAIN.

AS THE SHIP SOARS AWAY, VEDRIN OPENS A COMMS CHANNEL.

VEDRIN:

Imperator Rovus, can you hear me?

ROVUS:

(D) What is it, Vedrin?

VEDRIN:

Two humans appeared at the Citadel. They've taken one of the vessels on the plain.

ROVUS:

(D) They may threaten the crossing. Send the signal, Vedrin!
Tell the fleet to come through!

VEDRIN:

At once!

143. INT. ASSAULT SHIP: COCKPIT.

IN SPACE FLIGHT.

ADRIC COMPLETES A CONTROL SEQUENCE.

ADRIC:

I've set course for the star cluster. When we're closer, we should get a good reading on that gravity dip.

AUTUMN:

If you concentrate on flying, I'll watch for that.

ADRIC:

Thanks. And Autumn...

AUTUMN:

Yes?

ADRIC:

I know I said you shouldn't be here. But... I'm really glad you came.

AUTUMN:

(BRIGHTLY) Me too.

144. EXT. HELIOPAN.

NOMAR:

We should start back.

TEGAN:

Yeah, enough of the sight-seeing. Besides I prefer the aurora australis - this thing's too big for the eyes.

THEY RETURN DOWN THE SLOPE. KRAIL BEASTS SHRIEK. THE GROUP STOPS.

NYSSA:

Krail beasts!

TEGAN:

They must have followed our trail.

LOM:

We'll have to take another route back. Over the top of the ridge. Hurry.

THEY SCRAMBLE BACK UP THE SLOPE. MORE SHRIEKS FROM THE KRAIL.

145. INT. ASTRONOMY HUB.

THE DOCTOR WORKING ON CONTROLS.

KALA:

So what are you going to do with that piece of coral?

DOCTOR:

Test a theory. The Star Men have an affinity with the coral. They use it for food, for fuel, and as a means to kill and control their victims.

KALA:

So?

DOCTOR:

I think their affinity is at the molecular level. That the Star Men and the red coral have the same base structure.

KALA:

Is it alive? I thought corals were dead - the husks of marine creatures.

DOCTOR:

'Coral' refers to both the substance and the creature that makes it - more properly called a coelenterate [see-LENTER-ate]. All corals are alive. A Star Man may well be the red coral in its ultimate form, transfused with enormous amounts of energy. That's why the coral responds to technology. It changes its form when exposed to a power source. Like the radiation field from this hand scanner..

KALA:

What are you doing?!

THE DOCTOR SWITCHES ON THE SCANNER AND IT BUZZES. THE RED CORAL CRACKS AND BECOMES GASEOUS, HISSING.

DOCTOR:

Energised, it becomes gaseous. On the other hand, when you cool it... (HEFTS CYLINDER, AND...)

... HE FIRES A JET OF VAPOUR AT THE CORAL. STINGING HISS AS CORAL HARDENS TO A SOLID.

KALA:

It turns back to solid form.

DOCTOR:

Becomes inert, exactly. One burst of coolant took the energy out of it.

KALA:

Then the Star Men can be stopped!

DOCTOR:

Star Men thrive on the energy and heat of a star. It makes sense the opposite should be anathema to them.

KALA:

We use cylinders of liquid nitrogen here, in our astronomy packet launchers. D'you think we can use them as a weapon against the Star Men?

DOCTOR:

I think exactly that.

146. INT. ARRIVALS HUB.

THREE STAR MEN FIRE ENERGY ROUNDS AT THE TARDIS.

ROVUS:

Enough!

FIRING STOPS.

ROVUS:

The box is not even marked. (PUNCHES TARDIS DOORS) I must find a way inside the Time Lord's craft!!

PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEM CHIMES.

DOCTOR:

(TANNOY DISTORT) Hello, this is the Doctor. Rovus, if you can hear me, I'd like to offer you a compromise.

ROVUS HITS WALL SWITCH. HIS VOICE ECHOES THROUGH THE SAME P.A. SYSTEM.

ROVUS:

I do not compromise, Time Lord.

DOCTOR:

(D) I'm willing to give you access to my TARDIS, if you'll guarantee the lives of the people on this base.

ROVUS:

I will accept no conditions!

DOCTOR:

(D) Can't we at least discuss it? I'm in the Astronomy Hub. Come and talk. Doctor out.

ROVUS:

(CHUCKLES) Fool! You'd have done better to stay hidden.

147. INT. ASSAULT SHIP: COCKPIT.

IN FLIGHT. INSTRUMENTS PINGING. CHANGE TO A STRIDENT TONE.
ADRIC OPERATES CONTROLS.

AUTUMN:

I think we've found your anomaly.

ADRIC:

That must be it!

AUTUMN:

Putting it on screen.

SHE PRESSES A CONTROL. SCREEN BLIPS WITH A NEW IMAGE. A BURNING
OBJECT IN SPACE.

ADRIC:

Oh my... It's huge!

AUTUMN:

It actually looks like a rip in space, doesn't it?

ADRIC:

Nyssa and Tegan are on the other side of that.

AUTUMN:

The Doctor said you were to get the co-ordinates and report
back, didn't he?

ADRIC:

That's right.

AUTUMN:

Well... do you always do as he says?

148. INT. ASTRONOMY HUB.

DOCTOR ADJUSTING VALVES ON LARGE CYLINDERS.

KALA:

Are you not finished with those valves?

DOCTOR:

Nearly. Why?

KALA:

Because I can see Star Men outside, coming over the surface.

DOCTOR:

Hoping to catch us off-guard, no doubt. They don't need to worry about the toxic atmosphere.

KALA:

Not sure I can see Rovus...

DOCTOR:

(FINISHES WITH VALVES) There. Finished! (STANDS) Now: I've programmed a delay into the valves. In ten minutes' time, all these cylinders of liquid nitrogen will vent into the Hub.

KALA:

So any Star Men in here should immediately become inert?

DOCTOR:

Indeed. Like ornamental statues.

BANGS OF MOVEMENT ON ONE SIDE OF THE HUB.

KALA:

They're entering the airlock!

DOCTOR:

Closer than I thought! Let's get to the monorail.

THEY RUSH OUT. CROSS TO:

149. INT. ASTRONOMY HUB: MONORAIL.

DOCTOR AND KALA RUN TO THE MONORAIL. EXCEPT A MONORAIL CAPSULE IS SCREECHING TO A HALT AS THEY DO.

KALA:

Oh no...!

DOCTOR:

Yes, friend Rovus appears to have chosen to save his legs, and take the monorail.

KALA:

Then we're trapped!

MONORAIL CAPSULE COVER OPENS.

ROVUS:

(IN CAPSULE) Going somewhere, Doctor?

DOCTOR:

I thought you'd never get here, Rovus!

150. EXT. HELIOPAN: HILLSIDE.

TEGAN, NYSSA, NOMAR AND LOM SCRAMBLE DOWN A SLOPE.

KRAIL SHRIEK NEARBY.

NYSSA:

They're closing in!

TEGAN:

We should go back.

KRAIL SHRIEK BEHIND THEM.

NOMAR:

They're behind us as well.

LOM:

This way! Run!

THEY SCRAMBLE UP THE SLOPE.

A KRAIL CHARGES FROM NEARBY.

TEGAN:

Lom! Watch out! To your left-

LOM:

(CRIES OUT AS THE KRAIL SPEARS HIM) Go! Save yourselves! Go-

KRAIL BEGINS TO EAT HIM.

LOM:

(SCREAMS)

TEGAN:

Lom!

NYSSA:

That's... horrible!

NOMAR:

Nyssa, Tegan, run!

ALL RUN UP THE SLOPE.

FURTHER KRAIL CHARGE FROM NEARBY. CROSS TO:

151. EXT. HELIOPAN: HILLTOP.

EXPOSED HILLSIDE. NOMAR, TEGAN AND NYSSA RUN UP. KRAIL CLOSING IN, SHRIEKING.

NYSSA:

(EFFORT) They're still coming!

NOMAR:

(RECOVERING BREATH) You two go on. I'll hold them off as best I can.

TEGAN:

By getting eaten? Nomar, no!

NOMAR:

Go!

NYSSA:

It's pointless, Nomar. They're all around us.

TEGAN:

Look, there must be some way out! My Auntie Vanessa used to say —

NYSSA:

(SNAPPING) What?! What did your Auntie Vanessa used to say, that has any useful bearing on our current situation? — Face it, Tegan, they're going to spear us, then eat us!

TEGAN:

You're right. This is it. (TO SELF) Brave heart, Tegan —

KRAIL CHARGE FORWARD, VERY CLOSE...

VOLLEY OF HIGH IMPACT ENERGY ROUNDS HAMMERS INTO THE GROUND FROM A SHIP THAT SWOOPS PAST OVERHEAD.

KRAIL CONFUSED. SHRIEKING, HOWLING.

TEGAN:

What the...?

NYSSA:

Where did that ship come from?

TEGAN:

Who cares? It's on our side!

NYSSA:

Here it comes again!

SHIP SWOOPS IN AGAIN AND FIRES.

KRAIL RUN OFF, TERRIFIED.

NOMAR:

The Krail are scattering!

TEGAN:

I don't know who's flying that thing, but they just saved our lives.

NYSSA:

Over there. It's coming in to land!

SHIP LEVELS OUT AND LANDS.

152. INT. ASTRONOMY HUB.

DOCTOR:

Isn't this cosy, Rovus? Just you, me, the Controller and a dozen of your Star Men.

ROVUS:

Indeed. Now, Doctor, tell me what trap you have set.

DOCTOR:

Trap?

ROVUS:

Your message was clearly a lure, to draw us here.

KALA:

There's no trap. You're paranoid, Rovus.

ROVUS:

Then why were you both in such a hurry to leave? Star Men – search this Hub!

STAR MEN BEGIN A LOUD, DAMAGING SEARCH.

ROVUS:

(TO DOCTOR) Whatever it was you had planned, Doctor – it will not succeed!

153. EXT. HELIOPAN: HILLTOP.

TEGAN, NYSSA AND NOMAR RUN TOWARDS ASSAULT SHIP AS RAMP DESCENDS.

ADRIC:

(FROM RAMP) Nyssa! Tegan! Climb aboard!

TEGAN:

(OFF) Adric?!

NYSSA:

(OFF) However did you find us?

ADRIC:

There weren't very many life signs on this planet. Obviously.

TWO KRAIL CHARGE, SNARLING.

NOMAR:

(OFF) The Krail are coming back!

AUTUMN RUNS OUT PAST ADRIC.

AUTUMN:

They'll never make it, not without covering fire!

ADRIC:

Autumn, you're mad! Stay in the ship!

AUTUMN:

(CALLING) Hurry! I'll keep the creatures off!

SHE FIRES A BLASTER. KRAIL SCREAMS, FALLS.

AUTUMN:

Got one!

FIRES AGAIN AS TEGAN, NYSSA AND NOMAR RUN UP.

TEGAN:

(BREATHLESS) Thank you.

ADRIC:

Don't just stand there, Tegan - get in!

AUTUMN FIRES AGAIN AS TEGAN, NYSSA AND NOMAR SCRAMBLE UP RAMP. KRAIL SCREECHES.

AUTUMN:

And another!

ADRIC:

(CALLING) Autumn, they're on board! Come on!

AUTUMN:

Okay. (RETURNING) How was my shooting?

ADRIC:

Excellent, first class! Now hurry!

AUTUMN:

Do I get a special badge, like yours?

ADRIC:

Don't be silly.

KRAIL CHARGING BEHIND...

AUTUMN:

Maybe you'd better give me something else [instead]

ADRIC:

Behind you!!!

KRAIL ROARS, SPEARS HER.

AUTUMN:

(CRIES, FALLS)

ADRIC:

Autumn, no!!

ADRIC RUNS FORWARD, SNATCHES UP HER GUN.

ADRIC:

Get away from her!!

HE FIRES SEVERAL ROUNDS. KRAIL SHRIEKS AND FALLS DEAD.

ADRIC:

Autumn? – Autumn, I've got you! (HE LIFTS HER)

ADRIC CARRIES HER INTO THE SHIP. RAMP CLOSES.

154. INT. ASSAULT SHIP: HOLD.

ADRIC CARRIES AUTUMN IN.

ADRIC:

Clear a space! Autumn's hurt!

TEGAN:

She's been spiked!

AUTUMN:

(SET DOWN — MOANS)

NYSSA:

Adric. We'll take care of her. You need to get us away from here.

ADRIC:

(DISTRAUGHT) Yes... yes, alright.

HE RUNS TO COCKPIT.

TEGAN:

Autumn? — Autumn, can you hear me?

AUTUMN:

(DYING) Adric...?

155. EXT. HELIOPAN: HILLSIDE.

KRAIL SHRIEK DEFIANTLY AS THE ASSAULT SHIP LIFTS OFF AND SOARS AWAY.

156. INT. ASTRONOMY HUB.

STAR MEN CONTINUE THEIR SEARCH.

DOCTOR:

Can't find what you're looking for?

ROVUS:

Enough of this.

ROVUS GRABS KALA ROUGHLY.

KALA:

(CRIES OUT) Aah! Doctor!

ROVUS:

My patience has ended. Tell me what you have done, or I will snap the Controller's neck.

DOCTOR:

Now, Rovus...

STAR MAN:

(NEARBY) Emperor! It is here!

ROVUS:

Where? Ah, I see... Liquid nitrogen. Very clever. Disable the device.

THE STAR MAN MAKES A SHIMMERING HAND GESTURE. THE VALVE CONTROL SPARKS AND EXPLODES.

DOCTOR:

(DEFLATED) It was worth a try.

ROVUS:

No, it was not. I said my patience was at an end. We are going to your time ship. And you will open it. Or you and every human here will die.

157. INT. ASSAULT SHIP: COCKPIT.

IN FLIGHT. ADRIC LOCKS OFF CONTROLS. TEGAN AND NOMAR ENTER.

TEGAN:

Adric... You'd better go back there. Autumn wants you.

NOMAR:

I will monitor the flight.

ADRIC:

Thank you.

HE EXITS, INTO:

158. INT. ASSAULT SHIP: HOLD. [CONTINUOUS]

AUTUMN:

(MOANS, NEAR DEATH) Adric... ?

ADRIC HURRIES TO HER SIDE.

ADRIC:

I'm here.

NYSSA:

I'll... I'll go up front and keep Tegan company.

NYSSA EXITS.

ADRIC:

Autumn, we'll get you home. You'll be alright. You'll see.

AUTUMN:

Adric, I know... I'm not going to make it...

ADRIC:

Yes you are!

AUTUMN:

I'm glad... I came, though. Glad I helped... your friends. Tell my mother... Tell her...

ADRIC:

Tell her what? Autumn? What do I tell her?!

AUTUMN:

Goodbye... Adric. (SHE DIES)

ADRIC:

Autumn? ... Autumn! (HE HUGS HER CLOSE)

159. INT. ASSAULT SHIP: COCKPIT.

TEGAN:

Nomar – what's that? On the screen?

NOMAR:

That's the view behind us.

TEGAN:

I've never seen so many... are they ships?

NOMAR:

The ships of the Star Men. Each looks like their Citadel.

NYSSA:

That planet's very close... if it is a planet. It's moving with them!

TEGAN:

That's no planet. It's what Lom mentioned. The Keltin Core, it's got to be!

NYSSA:

The what?

TEGAN:

The Star Men's brain. Their mother, too, from what I could make out.

NOMAR:

They are following our course. They're heading for the rift.

TEGAN:

It's the invasion! They're going through, taking this Core with them.

NYSSA:

We have to do something.

TEGAN:

Nyssa, there are thousands of ships out there. What can we do?

NYSSA:

I don't know... Close the rift before they get there?

160. INT. ARRIVALS HUB.

STAR MEN GROUPED AROUND. ROVUS BANGS ON THE TARDIS DOORS.

ROVUS:

No more tricks, Doctor! No more refusals! Open your ship, or die where you stand!

DOCTOR:

If you kill me you won't ever get in, Rovus.

ROVUS:

I will take that chance.

HE GRABS KALA BY THE NECK.

KALA:

(CRIES OUT)

DOCTOR:

Put her down!

KALA:

(STRUGGLING IN ROVUS'S GRIP) Can't... breathe. Doctor...

ROVUS:

Open it. Say no and she dies. Then you die. Then the killing won't stop.

161. INT. ASSAULT SHIP: COCKPIT.

NYSSA:

We'll be going through the rift any minute. If we're going to do something, it has to be now.

TEGAN:

This is a fighting ship, right? It has weapons on it...

NOMAR TAPS A KEYBOARD. WORDS SCROLL ON SCREEN.

NOMAR:

The weapons inventory includes space mines. The control for their release is... there. Those switches.

TEGAN:

That could work. If we release them as we go through.

SHIP SHUDDERS.

NYSSA:

It feels like we're going through the rift now! Do it, Tegan.

TEGAN:

Here goes nothing.

TEGAN PRESSES A ROW OF SWITCHES. MINES ARE RELEASED WITH EXTENDED PINGS.

162. EXT. THE RIFT.

THE RIFT, BURNING IN SPACE. SEVERAL SPACE MINES DRIFTING IN THE OPENING, PINGING.

THE FIRST STAR MEN SHIPS LUMBER TOWARDS THE RIFT.

HUGE EXPLOSIONS. DESTROYING THE FIRST OF THE SHIPS, AND COLLAPSING THE RIFT.

163. INT. ARRIVALS HUB.

AS BEFORE.

DOCTOR:

Rovus, don't do - [this]

ROVUS:

Wrong response, Doctor. Say goodbye to- (STOPS, STAGGERS)
What?... What is this?

ROVUS'S BODY STUTTERS. SHIMMER BECOMING A CRACKLE OF DISCHARGED
POWER.

AROUND THE ROOM, STAR MEN ARE DOING THE SAME.

DOCTOR:

Interesting. You and your Star Men appear to be going to
pieces, Rovus. I wonder why?

ROVUS:

Doctor! What have you done?!

DOCTOR:

Not me, Rovus. Perhaps some friends of mine? You met them,
remember?

ROVUS RELEASES KALA.

KALA:

(GASPS OF BREATH)

DOCTOR:

Kala, are you alright?

KALA:

Just about... what's happening?

ROVUS:

The Core... is gone! The link is broken!

STAR MEN:

(WAIL, BEREFT, POWERING DOWN)

KALA:

The Core? What's the Core?

DOCTOR:

He mentioned the Keltin Core. It sounds like something the Star
Men can't bear to be without. Literally. And if the rift were
to be closed somehow...

KALA:

Like you said – with a large explosion?

DOCTOR:

Or explosions, plural.

ROVUS'S FORM HARDENING, LIKE CORAL.

ROVUS:

No! No, this cannot beeeee... (SUCCUMBS)

ROVUS AND THE STAR MEN HAVE BECOME PILLARS OF BRITTLE STUFF THAT NOW CRUMBLE TO THE FLOOR.

DOCTOR:

(DOWNBEAT) Crumbled to dust. An interesting reaction.

KALA:

Doctor, you should be pleased. Adric and Autumn beat them – we've won! The Star Men have gone forever.

DOCTOR:

But Nyssa and Tegan were still on the other side of the rift.

KALA:

You don't mean...?

DOCTOR:

I've lost them, Kala. They've gone.

MUSIC SEGUE.

164. INT. CONTROL SUITE.

ACTIVITY AS OPERATORS WORK BUSILY AT STATIONS. MUCH MOVEMENT TO AND FRO.

DOCTOR:

The clear-up seems to be going well.

KALA:

I'm still waiting for final reports. But it looks like we got through this with few casualties in the Hubs.

DOCTOR:

But not elsewhere.

KALA:

Including your two friends. I'm sorry for your loss.

DOCTOR:

Where's Adric? We've still not heard from him, I suppose?

KALA:

He'll be back. He's got Autumn with him. She's a Tace. She's a survivor.

COMMC CHANNEL OPENS WITH A BURST OF STATIC.

TEGAN:

(DISTORT) — again, can anybody hear me?!

DOCTOR:

(DISBELIEVING) Tegan?!

HE PRESSES A COMMS BUTTON.

DOCTOR:

Tegan, hello!! Yes, we hear you!

TEGAN:

(D) Doctor! I thought I'd never hear your voice again!

DOCTOR:

Same here. Is Nyssa with you?

NYSSA:

(D) I'm here, Doctor. We're safe, we just left the L.M.C. Adric and Autumn got us back.

KALA:

(ASIDE) Told you. A survivor.

DOCTOR:

They did more than that, I think. Wonderful work, Adric!
(KINDLY) You ignored my instructions, of course. But that's only to be expected.

ADRIC:

(D) (SUBDUED) We're heading back. But we've only got ion drive.

DOCTOR:

I'll bring the TARDIS to you.

KALA:

Is Autumn there? Autumn, can you hear me? I'm so proud of you!
... Autumn?

NYSSA:

(D) Controller Tace, I have to tell you something.

KALA:

Tell me what? Put Autumn on. (AWFUL TRUTH DAWNING) Where's Autumn?

TEGAN:

(D) Kala... Autumn didn't make it.

KALA:

What?

DOCTOR:

Oh Kala. I'm so terribly sorry.

MUSIC SEGUE.

165. INT. TARDIS CONTROL ROOM.

DOCTOR ENTERS. DOORS CLOSE.

SUBDUED ATMOSPHERE FROM THE START.

TEGAN:

Nomar was glad to be back with his people.

DOCTOR:

Yes. And now we should be on our way.

HE OPERATES CONTROLS. TARDIS DOORS CLOSE.

DOCTOR:

The good news is that we stopped the Star Men before they could do serious damage to the timeline. Although mankind and others in this galaxy may explore more tentatively from now on.

ADRIC:

Autumn would still be alive if the Star Men hadn't have come here.

TEGAN:

Adric...

DOCTOR:

That's true. But her death is part of established history now.

ADRIC:

Yes, except this is a time machine.

NYSSA:

Adric, you know the rules.

DOCTOR:

Autumn's death was tragic. And the Star Men killed many more, including among Nomar's people. But what's done cannot be undone. I'd like nothing more than to put things right for you, Adric. But...

ADRIC:

But a death is a death.

DOCTOR:

Yes.

BEAT.

ADRIC:

I'll be in my room.

STIFLING EMOTION, HE HURRIES OUT, SHUTTING THE INTERNAL DOOR BEHIND HIM.

TEGAN:

Poor guy.

NYSSA:

Poor Autumn.

DOCTOR:

(HEAVY SIGH) Indeed.

HE PUSHES A SWITCH. TARDIS ENGINES START.

THE END